

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 301

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 2010

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a merger of the Covenant Party and the Republican Party?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



African Crisis

Forces loyal to two men claiming Ivory Coast's presidency clash in the capital.

WORLD...Page 11



Tech Toys

Whatever your kid's age or personality, here's a short list of toys we think are worthwhile.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 18

Tinian mayor wants \$15K cut on casino commissioners' wages. PAGE 3
All set for Paskong Pinoy 2010 on Saipan. PAGE 12

ICE probes driver's license scam

» Auto shop owner arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement has stepped into the investigation of an alleged driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety with the arrest of an auto shop owner on Thursday.

ICE agents arrested Mohammad Jah-angir Miah on charges of unlawful transfer of an identification document.

The complaint against Miah was filed under seal last Monday as investigation was then ongoing. The U.S. District Court for the NMI unsealed the case yesterday.

Miah was taken to the federal court Thursday afternoon and a detention hearing was held yesterday.

See DRIVER'S on Page 4



MINI-CARNIVAL

Bump cars covered in protective cloth wait to be placed at a mini-carnival under construction at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday afternoon. The carnival, which is expected to open on Dec. 24 on a temporary six-month basis, is owned by Olimp USA Inc. and is being built by Gozum Construction personnel.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bones found on Pacific isle may be of Amelia Earhart

WELLINGTON—US aircraft history buffs are hopeful that tiny bones along with artifacts from the 1930s found on a remote Pacific island may reveal the fate of pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart.

In one of aviation's most enduring mysteries, Earhart took off from Lae, in what is now Papua New Guinea, while attempting to circumnavigate the globe via the equator in 1937 and was never seen again.

A massive search at the time failed to find the flyer and her navigator Fred Noonan, who were assumed to have died after ditching their Lockheed Electra aircraft in the ocean, according



Pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart. Photo Courtesy National Aviation Hall of Fame

to the Amelia Earhart Museum.

Now aviation enthusiasts from US-based group The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (Tighar) say they have evidence suggesting the pair made it safely to Nikumaroro Is-

See BONES on Page 4

Govt still pays \$75K to \$100K for overtime costs per payroll

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite austerity measures during these tough financial times, the government still spends anywhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000 in overtime pay of personnel.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the administration wants to reduce overtime pay to less than \$50,000.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said a closer scrutiny of overtime expenses is being done "that's why we are not paying them as they come in."

"I am looking at the reports right now, what activities are involved, and we're calling in these agencies (with overtime expenses)," he said, referring to agencies such as the Departments of Public

See PAYROLL on Page 4

46 Rota, Tinian patients yet to get allowance

» House postpones sessions until January

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 46 Rota and Tinian dialysis and terminally-ill patients have yet to receive their allowances since at least November because the pre-filed appropriations bill that were supposed to give them their

money have yet to be formally introduced in a House session that has been cancelled four times since last week.

Close to 90 Tinian students also have yet to receive their scholarship money.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said yesterday that they only need one House session to be held so that the local appropriations bill can go to the local delega-

See ALLOWANCE on Page 4

Local

Man gets 21-day sentence for hitting woman with PVC pipe

The Superior Court has imposed a 21-day prison term on a man who hit a woman with a PVC pipe, causing injuries.

In a written order issued Thursday, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Roberto M. De Guzman to six months in prison, all suspended except for 21 days, with credit for the 21 days he had already served in jail. This means De Guzman will no longer serve jail time.

The 56-year-old De Guzman was placed on two years probation and was required to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, and \$200 probation fee. He was also ordered to perform 50 hours of community service.

During his two-year probation, De Guzman is barred

from drinking any alcoholic beverages.

The government charged De Guzman with assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as a lesser included offense of assault with a dangerous weapon charge as part of a plea bargain.

The case arose from an Oct. 9, 2010, incident on Saipan, when De Guzman hit Priscilla Corpuz Tadeo with a PVC pipe.

Detective Buddy Igitol stated in his report that the assault occurred at Tadeo's residence near the Muslim church in Garapan. De Guzman fled after the assault and could not be located.

Igitol stated in his report that a police officer had responded to a call about a disturbance in Garapan on Oct. 9 at 9:11pm. When the officer arrived at the scene, the victim met him and identified the suspect as De Guzman.

The officer noticed that Tadeo had injuries on the forehead

and arm.

Tadeo told police that she was inside her barracks room when De Guzman arrived and challenged her husband to a fight.

Tadeo came out and asked him what his problem was. De Guzman hit Tadeo's head with a PVC pipe, then fled. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

NMC hires a new elementary education instructor for SOE

The Northern Marianas College recently hired Charlotte R. Cepeda to work as an instructor at the college's School of Education.

The newly hired instructor is no stranger to NMC. Cepeda

obtained her Bachelor's in Science degree in Elementary Education from NMC in November 2006, and went on to earn her Master's degree in International Education from Framingham State University

in December 2008. In addition, Cepeda recently became certified in American Sign Language.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome another qualified instructor to NMC," said Act-



Cepeda

ing Interim President Barbara Merfalen. "We are very proud to welcome back one of our graduates."

Soon after receiving her degree from NMC, Cepeda began teaching sixth grade at Oleai Elementary School. At Oleai Elementary School, Cepeda also served as advisor for the school's student council and as secretary for the Faculty Club. During the following summer, she worked as a summer language arts instructor at Saipan Southern High School.

Although Cepeda taught for the CNMI Public School System, she remained actively involved at NMC. She has assisted NMC's Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Com-

munity Programs and Services, with teaching condensed courses related to elementary education and Praxis I review for NMC students and PSS teachers. Cepeda has also taught as an adjunct instructor for the NMC Summer and Fall 2010 semesters teaching education related courses, as well as English courses in the Fall 2009 semester.

"As an instructor for the School of Education, I am given the chance to stay within the profession I have dedicated myself to," said Cepeda. "I feel that the experience I bring with me will be an asset to the students who have chosen the multi-faceted field of education."

Cepeda adds, "Becoming a full-time instructor also allows me a wonderful opportunity to give back to my alma mater; I am looking forward to many years of service to the students, SOE, NMC and the CNMI community."

NMC's School of Education offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with new program concentrations in Early Childhood Education, Special Education, and Rehabilitation and Human Services. Registration for the upcoming Spring 2011 semester will begin on January 10, 2011. **(NMC)**

Woman gets 18-month prison sentence for 'ice' possession

A woman who pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine or "ice" was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

In a written order issued Thursday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Karlene Reyes Lizama to one year and six months, with credit for time served, for possession of a controlled substance.

The 27-year-old Lizama will be released from the Department of Corrections on April 20, 2012, at 9am.

Naraja ordered Lizama to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$25 court assessment fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Lizama with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Lizama and counsel signed a plea agreement with the government. She pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance. In return, the OAG moved to dismiss the remaining charge.

Lizama was caught with crystal methamphetamine in her possession on Oct. 7, 2010.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Sean White stated in his report that on Oct. 7, they conducted a controlled buy operation using a cooperating source to purchase \$100 worth of "ice" from Lizama in Garapan.

White said the cooperating source disclosed that Lizama has been selling "ice" and had told the source that a Chinese friend has been supplying her with the illegal drugs "24 hours a day." **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
 Eyelash Extension \$10 • Hair extension \$06 each
 Free Hot Oil for every Perm Service
 UV Gel Nail Sculpture Nail
 Vitreous Nail
 Tel.: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
 Located across Friendship Ext.

Capture the Holidays

Nokia 2220 \$29* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 2610 \$29* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 3120 \$49* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 3720 \$49* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 6070 \$29* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 3600 \$79* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 6120 \$79* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Nokia 7310 \$49* Includes One free month access & 3 months free RBT

Continental Airlines OnePass

Receive 2500 Continental OnePass Bonus Miles on New Account Activations**

Includes ONE FREE MONTH ACCESS & 3 MONTHS FREE RBT

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
The Choice is Clear

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com • Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan
 *Some Conditions Apply. New Activations on a 12 month agreement. Offer Valid December 1st - 31st, 2010 or While Supplies Last. **Conditions apply please see website for details.

Tinian mayor wants \$15K cut on casino commissioners' wages

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the island's declining revenues directly brought about by the struggles of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz wants

the salary of casino gaming commissioners trimmed from \$75,000 to \$60,000 each.

Dela Cruz pointed out that, although he has the authority to appoint members on the commission, he has no power to reduce the salary they get as this is

the responsibility of the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

"I will ask the delegation's help to make this happen. Obviously, we cannot afford to provide the \$75,000 annual salary for commissioners because as you can see Tinian Dynasty is struggling. I would propose reducing their salary from \$75,000 to at least \$60,000," he told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

Pursuant to law that created the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, the five members that make up the commission are appointed by the mayor and serve a term of six years. Each commissioner is limited to serve only one term and is entitled to receive compensation of not more than \$75,000 annually.

So far, the only casino operating on the island is the Tinian

Dynasty Hotel and Casino. Other investors have yet to actually build casinos or have scrapped initial plans altogether. These included Bridge Investment Group, Marianas Resort Development Corp., and Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp.

Besides the proposed salary cut, Dela Cruz said he also intends to not fill the three vacancies on the commission due to lack of money. However, he already has three possible nominees for the position in case the commission needs a quorum.

"...But at this time, I decided not to fill the posts because of very little resources. The naming of the candidates for the position is a requirement of the Casino Gaming Act. Once a new applicant comes in, the commission can immediately establish a quorum to transact

official business," said Dela Cruz, describing the commission's operation as purely administrative at present.

'Meeting with Neo Gold Wing'

Saipan Tribune learned that the Tinian mayor met with the representatives of the Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp. on Monday. The company, however, has not presented any "final plan."

"They said they are coming back...and is now putting their financials together. However, until such time they address some issues such as arrears at the Department of Public Lands, nothing is final yet," Dela Cruz said.

The company proposes to build a \$1-billion casino hotel and resort on Tinian. DPL dis-

closed early this year that Neo Gold Wings was long overdue on its land lease. From the original 300-hectare site for the investment, DPL only approved a 160-hectare site for the project.

Dela Cruz also admitted that Bridge Investment Group is still waiting for the final regulation on workers in line with its plan to bring in Chinese workers to build the casino facility.

The Marianas Resort Development Corp., meantime, is still putting together all its financial requirements for their planned casino investment.

MRDC secured its conditional license in September 2006 and the company was approved a 25-year land lease.

The other casino proposer, Bridge Investment Group secured a license in 2005.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hopwood students to serenade hotels today

In the spirit of the season, students of Hopwood Jr. High School will be sharing Christmas joy with visitors at Saipan hotels today, Dec. 18.

The HJHS Angels will start off serenading participants of the Christmas in the Marianas Walk, which kicks off at 4pm at the Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Then they will share their music and song live on KKMP 1440 AM and 92.1 FM (www.cnmradio.com), before proceeding north to Mariana Resort & Spa and working their way south to Coral Ocean Point Saipan. The students will dress in Christmas and cultural attire and spend 10-15 minutes at each hotel.

The Christmas caroling is organized and sponsored by local businesses. Pacific Development, Inc. and Top Development, Inc. have donated bus services, while Shop 670 will provide refreshments for the singers. The event is also supported by KKMP and the Marianas Visitors Authority. (PR)

Palauans on Saipan hold Christmas party

The Palau Community Association, PCA, will be holding its 2010 Christmas Party today, Dec. 18, 2010, from 4:30pm to 10pm at Laly 4, Chalan Kanoa Beach, Saipan.

All Palauans and their families are invited to join. PCA Youth will do their presentation such as singing Christmas songs and other activities. Dinner and a live band follow after.

For more information, call Bernice at 285-4845 or PCA president Rufino Aguon at 483-6232, or Felisa Brel at 483-9053. (PR)

9 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Fiesta Resort drainage, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Sugar Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Dec. 20 from 9:30am-7:30pm
- Dec. 21 from 9:30am-5pm
- Dec. 22 from 6am-2pm

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)

Helicopter squadron to return home

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 1 is scheduled to return home from an eight-month deployment Dec. 20.

Det. 1 was embarked briefly aboard USNS Kiska (T-AE 35) then spent the remainder of the deployment aboard the USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7). The 36 Sailors provided vertical replenishment support of ammunition and supplies from Carl Brashear to ships in the George Washington Strike Group. The detachment moved over 3,000 tons of ammunition, mail, food, and other supplies during their deployment. Det. 1 flew over 520 hours, delivering ammunition, supplies, and passengers to more than 20 different ships.

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward deployed vertical replenishment squadron providing deployed ships a rapid, safe and versatile means of re-supplying diminishing stores. In addition, HSC-25 provides 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation services to the Coast Guard for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Junior High School principal Julian Hofschneider's major goal is to uplift the quality of education of the nearly 300 enrollees under his supervision. Part of that effort is by offering new elective courses for outgoing students. He said these elective courses will give students more opportunities after high school.

In a visit to the campus on Thursday, *Saipan Tribune* learned that advanced placement courses in history, envi-

ronmental science, and calculus have been instituted this school year to familiarize graduating students with these subjects and give them a leg up when they go on to college.

Hofschneider said the school also made significant strides in getting two counselors on board.

Tinian Junior/High School has 270 students and 35 classroom teachers. The principal described the current students-to-teacher ratio as "ideal" at 15:1. Lack of classrooms, Hofschneider said, has also

never been a concern for the Tinian school.

"Part of the reasons for the ideal ratio was that we kept our teachers and we have a decreased enrollment. But at the same time, we offered more choices of classes for our students. The present situation is ideal and I hope it will continue this way," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider said the greater involvement of parents in their children's education play a key role in these students' progress and achievement and he praised the commitment demonstrated by the students' parents in all school activities.

"With the availability of teachers we can now better align each grade level's instructions with the benchmarks being assessed at the end of the year. The implementation of the

benchmark mapping is another PSS initiative that also helps the alignment," he said.

In the maiden issue of the school's *Stallion Times Newsletter*, Hofschneider paid tribute to the dedication and hard work of parents.

"Being in the junior high school, students go through their adolescent changes and growth spurt, as well as their period of finding who they are as a person, their self-identity. Without guidance and advice from parents, they will have hard time adjusting and understanding these changes," the principal stated.

He said the lack of funding that hampers public education will not stop Tinian Junior High School from doing its best to provide quality education to its students.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tinian Junior/High School principal Julian Hofschneider shares with *Saipan Tribune* the maiden issue of the *Stallion Times Newsletter* that highlights the achievements and progress of students during a campus visit Thursday.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on December 21, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before December 21.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

*You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than December 21. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.



DUE TO DELAYED GOVT CONTRIBUTIONS

Fund forecasts drawdowns to reach \$60M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund projects to draw down a higher amount from its investment funds this fiscal year if the current trend does not improve in coming months.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez told the board of trustees yesterday that the agency's total withdrawal until the end of fiscal year may reach \$60 million—an amount higher than the board's authorized drawdown of \$54 million in fiscal year 2010.

As of Nov. 30 this year, the Fund's total withdrawal was already at \$4.1 million, for an average monthly drawdown of about \$2.4 million.

"If we annualized these data, it will

be about \$60 million [throughout the fiscal year]. If you can recall, we budgeted \$54 million for the drawdown last fiscal year...so we may need to go back to the board to increase the authorization if our cash flow problem does not improve," said Villagomez.

Drawdowns are used to pay for the pension benefits of members and other

obligations. Last fiscal year, the Fund realized some \$14 million "savings" in its projected drawdown due to the increased contributions from the government and the remittance of taxes due the Fund.

Villagomez said the increased drawdown rate was due to payments that haven't been received from the central

government and other agencies.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund last received the government's employer contribution in July. Villagomez said the Fund's comptroller is in constant communication with the Finance Department on the stalled collections.

The administrator reported that, as of

Nov. 30, Fund's investment portfolio was valued at about \$311 million. Return on investments in November was a slight negative at .85 percent.

Villagomez said estimated fiscal year-to-date return on investment and estimated calendar year-to-date return were both positive at 2.6 percent and 6.34 percent, respectively.

Senate raises Rev&Tax chief's salary from \$42K to \$50K

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate wants to increase the salary of the Division of Revenue and Taxation director from the current \$42,000 to \$50,000.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-

Rota) said yesterday that the position has been vacant since 2008, and one of the major reasons is the low salary offered to candidates.

Senators passed Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 17-51 last week, hoping that once the measure becomes law,

the government will be able to attract qualified applicants to fill the position last held by Esther Ada.

The bill is now awaiting action from the House of Representatives.

Hofschneider, in his bill, said the Division of Revenue and Taxation is one of the busiest and most critical offices in government, and the duties and responsibilities of the director are extensive and complicated "such that the current salary of \$42,000 is insufficient to fully compensate the director for all the re-

quired work to be performed in the office."

"The purpose of this legislation is to increase the salary of the director of tax and revenue to \$50,000 to attract qualified persons to fill the position of director of tax and revenue," Hofschneider said.

Besides a lack of revenue and taxation director, the governor also has yet to appoint a permanent secretary for both the Department of Finance and Department of Commerce.

BONES

From Page 1

land in Kiribati and lived as castaways.

Tighar executive director Rick Gillespie said the group, which has carried out 10 expeditions to Nikumaroro over the past 22 years, found three small bone fragments on the uninhabited island earlier this year.

Gillespie said the bones appeared to be part of a human finger, although they could also be from a turtle, and had been sent to the Molecular Science Laboratories at Oklahoma University

for DNA analysis.

"We're very hopeful that this will produce the result we're looking for," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Thursday.

Backing Gillespie's theory that Earhart ended her days stranded on Nikumaroro, he said Tighar also found artifacts dating from the 1930s, including a woman's make-up compact, broken mirror and small US-made bottles.

"We have every reason to believe that this is the site where Amelia Earhart lived and died as a castaway," he said.

Gillespie said his decades-long quest to determine Earhart's fate had involved

"many ups and downs", so he was not yet claiming to have definitive proof she washed up on Nikumaroro but the possibility was worth investigating.

"The magic of the Earhart mystery is such that just having a bone, that may be a human bone, that may lead to DNA that may turn out to match Earhart's DNA is of great interest," he said.

He said even if the Oklahoma DNA tests showed a link to Earhart, the bones would be tested by a second independent laboratory to verify the findings.

"This has been a very rigorous investigation," he said. (*Agence France-Presse*)

DRIVER'S

From Page 1

Visiting Judge William Fremming Nielsen denied bail for the defendant "at this time."

ICE special agent Mark D. Yamanaka stated in his report that on May 6, 2010, a cooperating source placed an unrecorded phone call to a Chinese female who is known to help foreign nationals obtain CNMI driver's licenses.

During the phone call, Yamanaka said, the cooperating source asked the Chinese female if she could help the cooperating source's friends obtain CNMI driver's licenses.

The cooperating source told the Chinese female that he/she would call her when the cooperating source's friends already have the money to obtain the driver's licenses.

On May 14, 2010, Yamanaka said, the cooperating source placed a recorded phone call to the same Chinese female to determine if the Chinese female could help the cooperating source obtain a CNMI driver's license for a friend.

The Chinese female replied that she would have to call back the cooperating source.

Later that day, Yamanaka said, the cooperating source received a phone call from the Chinese female, who spoke frantically and told the cooperating source to meet her very soon because she was ready to assist the cooperating source's friend obtain a driver's license.

At 1:03pm that same day, the cooperating source and the second cooperating source met the Chinese female at a restaurant in Chalan Piao. Yamanaka

said he and other ICE special agents recorded the meeting through audio and video equipment.

The cooperating source introduced the second cooperating source to the Chinese female. After their short conversation, Miah picked them up in a Toyota Corolla.

Yamanaka said that Miah drove the Chinese female and the two cooperating sources to the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

While in the vehicle, Miah told the Chinese female that she needed to take the papers inside and explained to her that "now it is very hard because they are checking a lot."

At BMV, the special agent said, Miah filled out the application for the second cooperating source with the help of the Chinese female.

Miah told the Chinese female to have the second cooperating source sign it, which he/she did.

Miah then informed the Chinese female that he needed to go to the courthouse to pay a \$30 fee in order to obtain a driver's license for the second cooperating source, Yamanaka said.

Miah drove to the courthouse and then returned to BMV. At 2:25pm or after an hour inside the BMV, the two cooperating sources left.

Yamanaka said they learned that the second cooperating source obtained a driver's license by providing a photocopy of his/her foreign passport to the Chinese female, signing a document, sitting for a photograph inside the BMV, and paying the Chinese female \$400.

He said the first cooperating source subsequently presented to the agents the \$50 that he/she received from the Chinese female in return for introducing the second cooperating source to

the Chinese female.

Yamanaka said the two cooperating sources informed the agents that it took them a long time inside BMV because the employee that was helping them out had to wait until the employee's supervisors left the area.

In summary, the special agent said, to obtain his/her driver's license, the second cooperating source provided a copy of his/her foreign passport to the Chinese female, for his/her driver's license photo at BMV, and paid a total of \$400 to the Chinese female (although \$50 of the \$400 was given to the first cooperating source).

The driver's license obtained by the second cooperating source indicated that the license was a "renewal" and that the second cooperating source had previously received a driver's license on Saipan.

Aat no time did the second cooperating source take an eye test, a written driver's test, or a driver's road test in order to obtain his/her driver's license, Yamanaka said.

He said the second cooperating source had never previously received a driver's license on Saipan.

The agent said the CNMI driver's licenses, like all driver's licenses, are valid forms of identification used to verify credit card purchases, open a bank account, cash a check, and drive on the public road in the CNMI and elsewhere.

Miah was arrested twice since July 2010 for allegedly stealing vehicles and falsifying their certificates of ownership. He was arrested again in September 2010 on the same charges. He owns an auto shop in As Lito.

He was represented at yesterday's hearing by court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley.

PAYROLL

From Page 1

Health, Safety and Corrections.

Inos said the government understands that overtime pay is inevitable, but they still see questionable overtime expenses.

"There's no way we could eliminate overtime, but maybe we could bring it to something less than \$50,000," he said.

But the overtime expenses of up to \$100,000 since the fiscal year 2011 budget law was passed are already

lower than the previous years' overtime expenses of more than \$100,000 per pay period.

"There are some declines but still, the way it is distributed is troubling... We want to call the agencies in, and find out why is an employee doing so much overtime while another employee is not performing or not earning overtime. We want to make sure it's equitable," he said.

Inos said the government will be releasing the overtime pay checks for pay period 23 and 24 next week, and they are currently processing overtime pay for pay period 25.

ALLOWANCE

From Page 1

tions for actions.

"In the absence of any House session, it poses serious problems on any local appropriations bill especially to Rota and Tinian patients who are on Saipan, in need of help with their expenses," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

A session was set for Dec. 7, rescheduled for Dec. 9, then for Dec. 13 and then to Dec. 15, and finally, until January 2011. Acting speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said on Thursday that the sessions will have to be postponed until January 2011 to give committees ample time to prepare their reports.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said "it is horribly frustrating and disappointing" that the session has been cancelled many times.

"My foremost concern is to be able to introduce a local appropriations bill that has been pre-filed since November 22, 2010 for the First Senatorial District which would have provided financial assistance or allowance to the 16 dialysis and terminally ill patients who reside away from home and largely depend on such assistance for the purchase of prescriptions and other medications," Santos said.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), for his part, said his pre-filed local bill appropriating \$52,000 for the allowance of 30 dialysis and terminally patients for November and December, as well as scholarship money for close to 90

students, has yet to be formally introduced.

If a House session is not held before the end of the year, then Rota and Tinian patients may have to spend the holidays without allowance for their medications. Students also need to wait until next year for their scholarship money.

Conner and Santos's local bills appropriate money from poker and pachinko slot machine annual license fees.

"These patients have been constantly contacting the offices of the members of the Rota delegation, as well as the office of the mayor of Rota inquiring about the status of their allowance. And that the last time these patients received their allowance was sometime in October of this year," Santos said.

Public Law 17-2 removed the required three legislative days to for certain local bills such as local appropriations, to avoid delaying local revenues that would be used for medical referral and other purposes.

"For this reason, a lapse of even a day is like a year of unbearable pain and suffering for these patients and perhaps even their families who may be financially burdened to meet the needs of their dialysis and terminally ill patients. Thus, the health and welfare of every citizen should be a primary concern for every public servant unless there is absolutely no conviction," Santos said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) also has a pre-filed local bill that appropriates \$3.2 million for Saipan scholarship waiting to be formally introduced.

GOLD IS OVER \$1,300 AN OUNCE ★ GOLD IS OVER \$1,300 AN OUNCE ★ GOLD IS OVER \$1,300 AN OUNCE

BUYING!

GOLD ★ SILVER ★ PLATINUM

FINAL 6 DAYS!

**Tuesday December 14th thru
Sunday December 19th**

CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

**Special Christmas
Bonus Offers!**

9AM TO 4PM ALL DAYS

★ HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN ★

**TUESDAY DEC. 14TH ★ WEDNESDAY DEC. 15TH ★ THURSDAY DEC. 16TH
FRIDAY DEC. 17TH ★ SATURDAY DEC. 18TH ★ SUNDAY DEC. 19TH**

Coral Reef Avenue in Garapan • Free Parking • Free Appraisal • On Site Security

**9AM TO 4PM
ALL DAYS**

CASH ON THE SPOT FOR YOUR GOLD!
WE WANT THE 10K - 12K - 14K - 16K - 18K - 22K - 24K THAT YOU DON'T!

**AS SEEN ON
TV & RADIO**

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bracelets up to \$2,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charm Bracelets ... up to \$2,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Necklaces up to \$1,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Service Awards up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Necklaces up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charms up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pens up to \$400 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Bracelets .. up to \$1,500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold School Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watches up to \$1,750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Cuff Links up to \$300 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pendants up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Bracelets .. up to \$2,500 | | |

WE ALSO BUY ALL STERLING SILVER AND PLATINUM JEWELRY. IF YOUR ITEMS AREN'T LISTED BRING THEM ALONG FOR A FREE APPRAISAL AND INSTANT CASH OFFER.

Gold Coins

Krugerrands, Eagles, Maple Leafs

With Gold up over 400% the past decade your coins could be worth a fortune. We'll appraise your Gold coins and PAY YOU CASH!

\$1.00 U.S. Gold	\$75 to \$3,500
\$2.50 U.S. Gold	\$125 to \$5,500
\$3.00 U.S. Gold	\$250 to \$5,750
\$5.00 U.S. Gold	\$250 to \$7,500
\$10.00 U.S. Gold	\$500 to \$11,500
\$20.00 U.S. Gold	\$1,000 to \$15,000

Minimum prices with gold spot at \$1300. Prices subject to daily fluctuation. Bullion and foreign gold wanted. No collection too large or small. Free evaluation. No-obligation cash offer!



STERLING FLATWARE

We pay top dollar for sterling flatware sets, serving pieces and miscellaneous flatware. Monogrammed sterling ok.

\$200 - \$2,500



Silver Coins

Morgans, Peace Dollars & more...

Are those stacks of old silver coins weighing you down? Bring them to our event today and let us pay you our highest cash price!

SILVER DOLLARS, SILVER HALVES, SILVER QUARTERS, SILVER DIMES

\$1.00 Silver (1935 & earlier) ..	\$11 up to \$12,500
50C Silver (1964 & earlier).....	\$4 up to \$2,000
25C Silver (1964 & earlier).....	\$2 up to \$750
10C Silver (1964 & earlier).....	\$.80 up to \$250

Max prices for rare coins in Mint State condition.

**DON'T MAIL YOUR VALUABLES AWAY TO SOME OUT OF STATE COMPANY.
SELL YOUR GOLD LOCALLY FOR MORE CASH WITH A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST**

BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE A
BONUS OF UP TO

10% MORE

ON SCRAP GOLD & SILVER

**NEW ★ OLD ★ BROKEN
WE BUY ALL!**

**YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY
COULD BE WORTH \$1,000's!**

CHRISTMAS BONUS CASH!

\$50 MORE

WHEN YOU SELL 50 GRAMS
OR MORE OF SCRAP GOLD

**IMMEDIATE CASH PAID!
INSTANT APPRAISAL!**

**SECURITY PROVIDED BY PRIVATE
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

SECURED GOLD BUYERS

(888) 549-2878 ★ SecuredGoldBuyers.com

ATTENTION: WE ARE A STATE LICENSED BUYER

Secured Gold Buyers is an
**Accredited Member of the
BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 301Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hopeful results on global warming

(c) 2010, The Miami Herald

It may not feel like it this week, but, according to NASA, 2010 will be the hottest year on record so far. The agency says the record-breaking heat was caused by a combination of man-made factors—greenhouse gas emissions—and a natural pattern of warming caused by El Nino in the Pacific Ocean.

The scorching heat was accompanied by other extreme weather patterns scientists say are affected by the Earth's heating atmosphere—devastating flooding in Pakistan, an abnormal July heat wave in Russia, warmer oceans that brought outbreaks of coral-reef bleaching.

NASA's announcement came while representatives from 193 nations held an annual climate-change conference in Cancun, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 11. Unlike last year's unproductive climate conference in Copenhagen, the Cancun summit actually accomplished several things.

The biggest goal—a legally binding global treaty on greenhouse gas emissions reduction—remains elusive. But in Cancun, groundwork was laid for the 2011 conference in South Africa.

Three areas of contention were settled in Cancun. First, the United States and China agreed on international, transparent standards for countries to verify their reductions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions. This was a major problem in Copenhagen because the United States and China are the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. In fact, China has surpassed U.S. emissions.

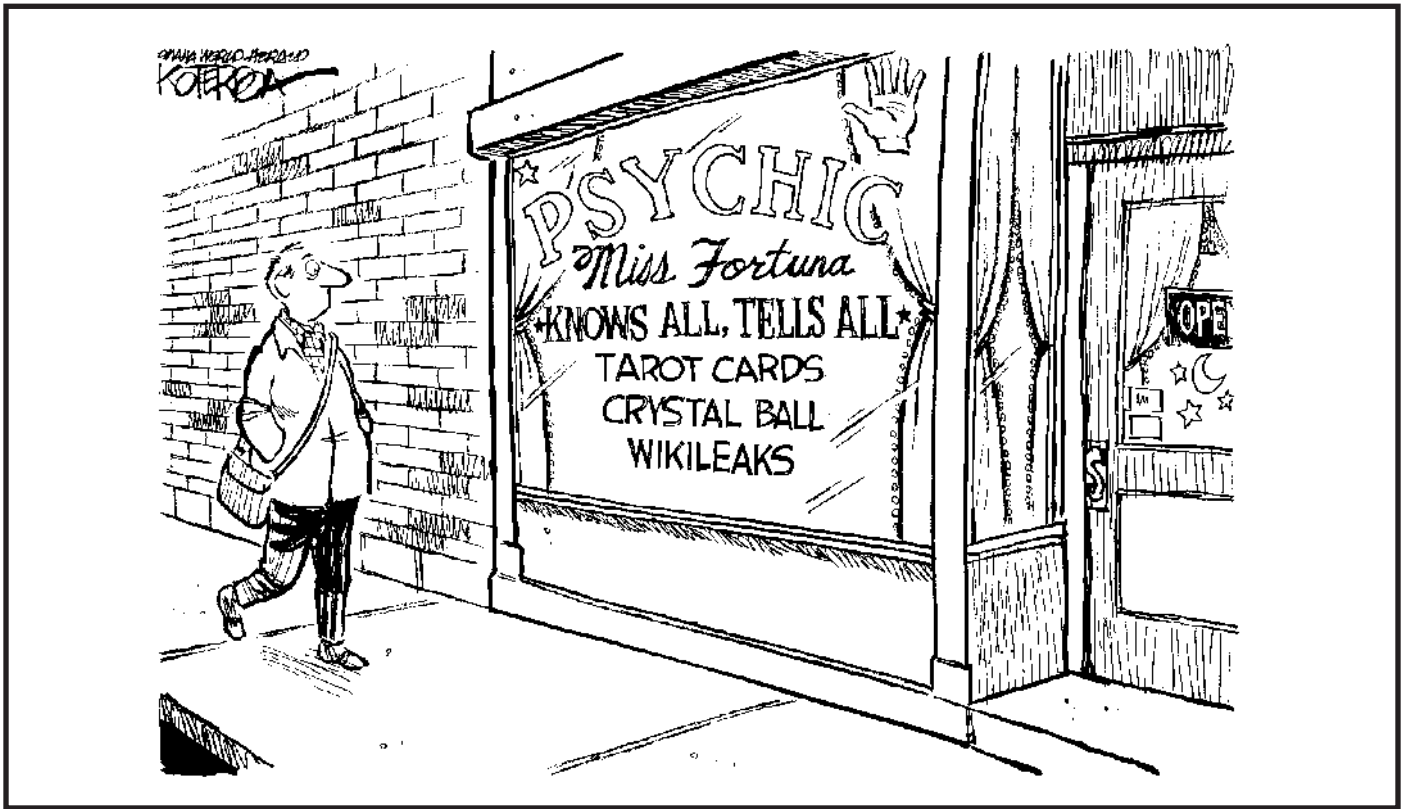
Second, the delegates agreed that wealthy nations will set up a \$100 billion green climate fund by 2020 that poorer countries can tap to both adapt to the effects of a warming planet and develop renewable energy sources. Poor countries have long argued that, while they emit the least carbon dioxide, they often are most vulnerable to its consequences, like more-frequent flooding in low-lying Bangladesh and increasing droughts in Africa.

Third, an accord was approved to reduce global deforestation. The Earth's forests suck up carbon dioxide. So, as deforestation has hit record levels, particularly in Central and South America, one effect has been an increase in carbon dioxide levels. Experts say that growing emissions from deforestation are equal to the total worldwide emissions from all forms of mechanized transportation.

So preserving vast swaths of forests and reforestation can go a long way to reducing the risks of global warming with no costs to most businesses. We have to plant and preserve more trees.

The Cancun pact followed an initial 2010 agreement to fund reforestation to the tune of \$1 billion. But that program wasn't clearly defined and led to more confusion than results. The 2010 pact provides guidelines and needed clarity on how countries can shape reforestation programs for maximum effect.

Giant strides toward reducing global warming? Maybe not. But when 193 countries can sign off on three key issues you have a good start toward achieving the bigger goals.



Afghanistan: Why it continues to matter

SEATTLE—We are in Afghanistan for the sake of two strategic concerns, namely, defending freedom and protecting the security of the United States.

Afghanistan is important to U.S. national security. The struggle in Afghanistan is here to stay. It is and has been a central part of a classical grand political chess game—involving the West, Pakistan, China, India, Iran, Russia, former Soviet Central Asian “Stans,” and other state actors—that has shaped the world order.

However, the emergence of terrorist and other groups advancing jihadist ideology across borders has fundamentally changed the rules of the game from a traditional struggle for dominance among nation-states to one driven by ideological and religious beliefs. This is why it is important to recognize that this is a war of ideas, not merely a political conflict.

America must think strategically. Our ability to influence events and to counter long-term threats will decline if we waver.

A weak performance in Afghanistan jeopardizes national security. We must therefore, fight to win. The crucial question, then, is: What does “winning” mean?

What is the fundamental challenge to America in Afghanistan? It is the very same pan-Islamist jihad ideology that has motivated the 9/11 attacks. This ideology inspires and drives terrorists around the world.

In the words of Osama bin Laden, “to kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country.” Certainly not every Muslim accepts this. Nevertheless, the threat from those who act on these ideas is very real and present indeed.

America is founded on the ideas of individual and religious freedom. This makes it difficult to fight in the realm of ideas—especially religiously motivated ones such as Islamist jihad—because we tend to leave matters of faith and conscience to the individual. Moreover, to the American way of thinking, ordered liberty has been designed for a government composed of accountable people, all of whom are believed to be equal before God.

Islamist ideology, however, calls for theocracy. In this view, infidels have no place in society. Those who believe in such a theocracy threaten not only the West but also traditional, more moderate Muslims and other peoples. Afghanistan is part of this war of ideas, and Mullah Omar's Taliban, the Haqqani network, and al-Qaeda are prime examples of the threat.

During an earlier Soviet battle in Afghanistan, the Americans recognized the ideological divide between communism and capitalism and supported the anti-communist forces, including the Islamists. (The Haqqanis were among them, as well as predecessors of al-Qaeda and the Taliban.) However, this did not prevent these Islamist forces from turning against the United States. Unfortunately, we are now fighting the very same insurgents and by largely similar means.

We are fighting an ideological war by putting boots on the ground. Our counterinsurgency strategy combines the goals of winning the Afghan people's “hearts and minds” with measured lethal force against enemy combatants. However, victory requires countering the ideology that is driving this war.

Soviet experience again offers lessons. Three strategies emerge:

Eliminate the irreconcilable. Comrade Stalin was a master at solving centuries-old ethnic problems or religious quarrels, includ-

By KATYA DROZDOVA

The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, Va.)

Katya Drozdova is assistant professor at Seattle Pacific University, research fellow at the Naval Postgraduate School, and principal investigator of the “Mining Afghan Lessons From Soviet Era” research program. Readers may send her e-mail at drozdova@spu.edu and at drozdova@stanford.edu. She wrote this for The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, Va.).



ing through elimination of ideologically driven opponents and their supporters by the millions.

While some force is essential to winning strategy, the West cannot and will not resort to Stalin's indiscriminate ways, lest we defeat who we are. The counterinsurgency strategy reckons with this: The United States and allied forces seek to minimize civilian casualties to contend with an enemy who hides among the people.

Fight an ideology with counter-ideology. This again is difficult for those who shun forcing ideas on others. The Soviet leaders did use this strategy leveraging a pro-Communist Afghan social base, at least initially. Yet even then the Soviets failed to influence the Afghans. Despite their many internal divisions, Afghans came together to expel the communist infidels.

Peel off and neutralize the less committed. Afghan society has largely opposed radical Islamists—some, because they fundamentally disagree with or perceive themselves as the target of the radical Islamist ideology; others, merely because not everyone who tolerates or favors an idea is ready to die or kill for it. Thus, we may influence the less ideologically committed via traditions or incentives that make extreme jihad less appealing.

Who in Afghanistan can be influenced?

Among key insurgents, the Haqqanis have fought ferociously against both the communists and the West. They fight not only for their Islamist ideology but for the political control of their land. The nationalist and religious motivations, coupled with tribal traditions, make them irreconcilable. Mullah Omar's Taliban is equally uncompromising. Hekmatyar has local roots, but he can be bought. In contrast, al-Qaeda is fanatically jihadist, but it is a global, not a nationalist, movement, and thus its pan-Islamist ideology is foreign to most Afghans.

Though predominantly Muslim, most Afghans opposed and resisted the imposition of extreme Shariah law by the Taliban. Such divisions offer opportunities to turn the tide against the extremism.

Traditional Afghan forces can create leverage against the Islamists and for a self-sustaining Western-friendly peace. Local ethnic and feudal powers—which fall in line with the more representative and democratic Afghan traditions such as the Loya Jirga or a parliament—can offer counterweights to one another and against pan-Islamists. The precedent includes a rather loose Northern Alliance coalition. Greater local autonomy may be required to incentivize such local powers today.

So what to do in Afghanistan? We must win. We must defeat the irreconcilables, and peel away those factions that are not fel-

See AFGHANISTAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If the commercialization of Christmas draws ire, there is an alternative

The intersection of sectarian and secular is crowded with dented fenders and smashed bumpers. At no time is that more evident in the United States than the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In a nation that values free speech, individual freedom and the ability to worship the deity of one's own belief—or not—the co-opting of a religious observance into the commercial world makes for trouble.

Advertising on city buses, a sign on city property, an artificial tree in a bank and the greetings that store employees offer patrons have all become fodder for some Christians' perceived slights to their faith.

Why are so many of my brothers and sisters in Christ consumed by the trivial?

As Christian researcher George Barna has said, we Christians too often are our own worst enemies when it comes to showing the world what real, biblically centered Christianity looks like—the one that calls for loving your neighbor as yourself.

Sadly, to the unbeliever, the average Christian doesn't act any differently than they do.

Even sadder is the realization that many of the folks who are raging against bus ads and seasonal slogans are behaving precisely as the Pharisees did—and were roundly denounced by Jesus for it.

The Pharisees of Christ's day were a powerful leadership body that claimed to be more righteous than the rest of Jewish society. They set themselves up as models of what was right and godly. They didn't see themselves as bad people; they simply were hyper-zealous in their desire to protect the name of God and his laws.

In Christ's eyes, that behavior was destructive. Fixating on

laws—or the minutia of slogans and signs—distracts from what we're called to do as Christians: Love God.

Proclaiming one's faith through an uttered "Merry Christmas"—or becoming angry at the restaurant manager who doesn't—isn't the way to display our humble faithfulness to the mission our Father gave us—to love our neighbors.

Living out that faith—putting our muscle and minds and money into tackling hunger and poverty and homelessness—is what keeps Christ in Christmas.

A couple of years back, Charles C. Haynes, senior scholar and director of education programs at the First Amendment Center, wrote a thought-provoking column titled "To save Christmas, separate Christ from commerce."

"If the aim is to keep 'Christ' in the shopping-mall Christmas or to ensure that pagan trees and mistletoe don't lose their Christian labels, then it might make sense to attack presidents and business owners who commit the 'happy holiday' sin," Haynes wrote. "But if the goal is to restore the religious meaning of the Christian holy day, then they are aiming at the wrong Target."

"Once the birth of Jesus was made a 'national holiday,' taking 'Christ out of Christmas' was destined to happen."

Therein lies the answer for all who bemoan the corruption of Christianity or get annoyed at the bank official who removes a gaudy tree or feel compelled to post anonymous complaints on a website about the company that dares to allow its employees to say "Happy Holidays": The United States should no longer "celebrate" Christmas (or Easter, for that matter) as a national holiday. Let the

By **J.R. LABBE**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Jill "J.R." Labbe is the editorial director of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at jrlabbe@star-telegram.com.



retailers have the days—just don't call them "Christmas."

The celebration of winter solstice (whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa) is a cultural observance, no matter the name we put on it. It belongs to the rich, diverse community in which we live and can no longer be claimed exclusively by one group or another.

To expand on an idea posited first by the Puritan minister Roger Williams (who warned about the worldly pollution of faith back in 1635) and developed by Haynes in his column, let the merchants and banks have their peacock blue trees and Jingle Bells, Santa Claus and the elves, red-and-green ribbons and shiny tinsel and ornaments.

Leave the manger out of it.

If you want to put Christ back into Christmas, then instead of battling the mall crowd to spend outrageous amounts of money on presents that will be forgotten by Easter, use that time and money to feed the hungry, clothe the poor and visit the infirm.

Jesus' new commandment was not for "them" to love us, but for us to love them.

We can't always be lucky

The Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot that attempted to ship two cargo bombs to the United States in late October plans more attacks.

"To bring down the U.S. we do not need to strike big," the group—al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)—said in a new English-language magazine. "It is more feasible to stage smaller attacks that involve less players and less time to launch."

As for the failed cargo bombs, the group said the two bombs cost about \$4,200 in materials and "took a team of less than six 'brothers' three months to plan and execute" from beginning to end. If successful, the \$4,200 operation could have cost the United States billions, they said.

While America's vast homeland security apparatus tries to figure out how to prevent future cargo bomb attacks, Americans need to reflect on the reality that we can't always be lucky. As an Irish Republican Army spokesman said after a failed attempt to kill British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1984, "... remember we only have to be lucky once. You will have to be lucky always."

First and foremost, Americans need to realize that building an absolute and perfect defense against terrorism is a Quixotic quest. There are just too many potential targets and too many different ways they can be attacked to successfully defend every target against every attack. Trying to do so would be a recipe for endless spending on more—and more intrusive and expensive, given our

penchant to view technology as a silver bullet—security. Intrusive pat-downs and body scans could be just the beginning.

Moreover, much of that spending would be wasted because the very nature of terrorism is to find a weakness and exploit it. That's exactly what the 9/11 hijackers did—knowing that airport security was designed to screen passengers for firearms, their weapons of choice were knives and box cutters. They also knew that a hijacking would be treated as taking hostages for ransom, not to use airplanes as guided missiles.

And our adversary adapts. As we build defenses, rather than trying to find ways to go through them they find ways around them. The failed shoe bomber, Richard Reid, shows how the terrorists adapted to the increased security measures intended to thwart hijackings. The Christmas Day underwear bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, showed how they adapted to the requirement that we take our shoes off to go through airport security. As these examples show, a lot of our security efforts tend to be focused on preventing the last attack rather than the next one. And even if we try to anticipate what the terrorists will do next, we can't always guess right.

That doesn't mean we should just give up and make no effort at all to defend against and prevent terrorism. But knowing that we can't always be lucky means that we also have to deal with the root causes of why people would become terrorists.

By **CHARLES V. PENNA**

The Independent Institute

Charles V. Penna is a senior fellow with The Independent Institute (www.independent.org), 100 Swan Way, Oakland, Calif. 94621, and author of the book Winning the Un-War: A New Strategy for the War on Terrorism.



The one cause we still refuse to confront is an interventionist U.S. foreign policy that spans both Republican and Democratic administrations—and goes beyond military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan (although those are certainly the most prominent examples). Unnecessary U.S. intervention in the Muslim world, including support for authoritarian and oppressive regimes, fuels the anti-American hatred that sparks terrorism.

To be sure, changing U.S. foreign policy won't convert those who already hate us into our friends, but it will give the one billion Muslims in the world one less reason to join the ranks of the jihadists and allow us to focus our efforts on those whose minds can't be changed and are most determined to do us harm.

The harsh reality is simple: If we don't change our policy, we will most certainly run out of luck.

Let's keep teen drivers safe this holiday season

By **JULEYKA LANTIGUA-WILLIAMS**

THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

This holiday season, parents must be especially vigilant to keep their teens safe on the road.

Car crashes are the number-one killer of teens in our country. Three thousand young lives are lost every year to careless driving, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Teens are four times more likely than older drivers to be involved in car crashes. And since many teens will have a lot of spare time on their hands over the holidays, parents have to monitor and restrict their driving.

Being a responsible parent means learning the risks involved in allowing your teenager to take the reins of the family car.

The CDC reports that most crashes take place during the first year a teen has a license. The risk goes up when there are other teens in the car with the inexperienced driver. And nighttime fatal crash rates

for 16-year-olds are nearly twice as high as daytime rates, says the CDC. In 2008, 20 percent of teen deaths happened between 9 p.m. and midnight, and 24 percent between midnight and 6 a.m., according to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety.

What's more, using a cell phone while driving greatly increases the odds of an accident. And many teens will also be tempted to drive while under the influence of alcohol this holiday season, which can be a fatal decision.

So here are a few things you, as a parent, should do:

1. Sit with your son or daughter before and after he or she earns a driver's permit or license. Discuss the dangers involved, and have a frank conversation about the consequences—those you will impose and those a judge will impose.

2. Get in the car and observe your child's driving. The CDC recommends providing 30 to 50 hours of supervised driving practice for at least six months after a teen gets his or her license. Teach your young driver how to handle a vehicle in different weather conditions and under changing traffic circumstances.

3. Sign a written agreement that details all the rights and privileges, as well as consequences, your teen will be subject to in exchange for the car keys. The CDC has a useful template on its website.

4. Consider prohibiting nighttime driving, or at least set a driving curfew of 10 p.m. at the latest.

5. Restrict the number of passengers to one or none.

6. Take away the keys if you even suspect your child has been drinking and driving.

7. Take away the cell phone if your child has been calling or texting while driving.

Your kid's car crash could ruin the holidays for you forever.

Your best gift to yourself is to make sure you have your child around to celebrate the holidays with you next year.

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams writes about current issues for The Progressive Media Project and can be reached at pmpproj@progressive.org. Copyright 2010 Juleyka Lantigua-Williams

AFGHANISTAN

From Page 1

low travelers with pan-Islamists, and who would defend their own interests themselves.

Stability can be achieved by dividing the Afghan state into a loose confederation of separate states based on traditionally stable ethno-geographic groupings. Those non-hostile to the West would receive aid toward self-governance and self-defense. (Such an approach worked, for example, in Yugoslavia—which was once a similarly complex and explosive problem—with U.S. and European Union support.)






This also has the benefit of breaking the nearly intractable Afghan security problem into more manageable parts, where counterinsurgency elements of force and humanitarian aid can be employed more effectively, as pro-American (or non-Islamist) factions are peeled off.

Such a decisive strategy would signal that America means business in this strategic war of ideas with U.S. national security at stake.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

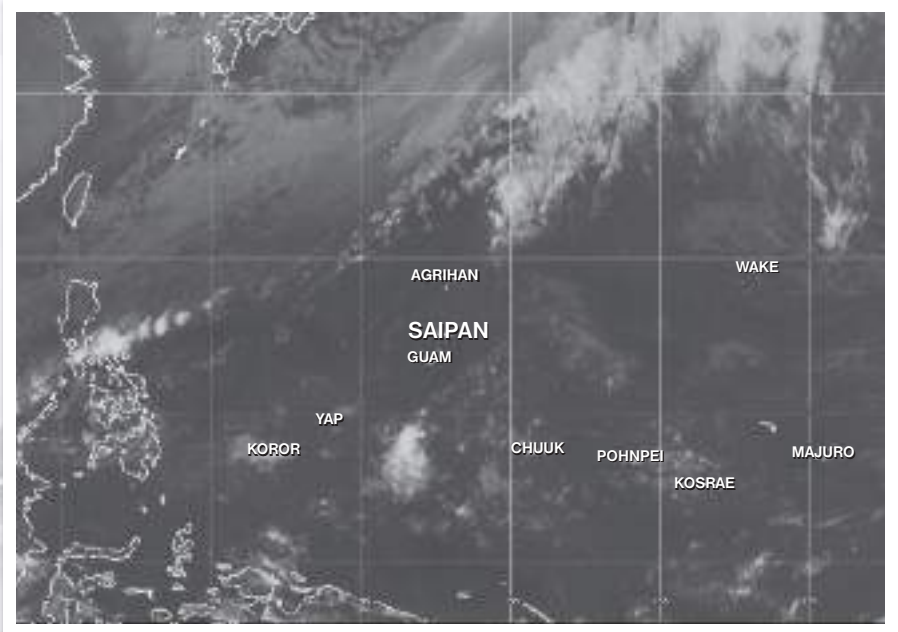
TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Clear	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼73

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲73 ▼66
Beijing	Windy	▲47 ▼22
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼51
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼27
Los Angeles	Showers	▲62 ▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼74
Melbourne	Rain	▲68 ▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▼30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼40
Paris	Ice	▲38 ▼29
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼43
Rome	Showers	▲51 ▼35
Salem	Rain	▲45 ▼40
San Francisco	Rain	▲61 ▼58
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲45 ▼33
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼40
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲38 ▼31

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from north of the Mariana Islands at 25N144E to beyond 130E at 16N. East of 138E, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. Scattered showers are also found ahead of the front within 90 miles of a line from 23N149E to 25N151E. Convergent low-level winds are causing scattered showers over Koror within 50 miles of a line from 8N132E to 7N135E. A weak surface trough stretches southeastward from 9N143E to 4N147E. Scattered showers are occurring southeast of Yap within 120 miles of 7N144E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers northwest of Kosrae and east of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N160E to 5N163E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM	Today	3:08 PM	3:26 AM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM	Sunday	3:54 PM	4:20 AM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM	Monday	4:49 PM	5:17 AM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM	Tuesday	5:47 PM	6:14 AM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:56 PM	Wednesday	6:52 PM	7:11 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM					GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6		C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily	
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only		CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN	
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT		C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM	
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau	
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau	
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM	
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM	
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG					HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota					FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily	
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily		FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily	
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily		FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily	
Guam-Rota					FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily	
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily		FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily	
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily						
Saipan-Rota					Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily		FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily		FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian					FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily		FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily		FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily		FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Final hurdle for tax bill: Is the end in sight?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Acting with uncommon speed, Congress moved toward final passage Thursday night of sweeping, bipartisan legislation to avoid a Jan. 1 spike in income taxes for millions and renew jobless benefits for victims of the worst recession in 80 years.

The measure also will cut Social Security taxes for nearly every wage-earner and pump billions of dollars into the still-sluggish economy.

The legislation was the result of a reach across party lines by President Barack Obama and top Republicans in Congress - stubborn adversaries during two years of political combat that ended when the GOP emerged the undisputed winner in mid-term elections on Nov. 2.

Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla., called it “a bipartisan moment of clarity” as the House moved toward an expected late night vote.

After forcing a delay in the House early in the day, Democratic critics settled for a separate vote in their bid to toughen an estate tax provision they attacked as a giveaway to the very

rich. They were defeated, 233-194, with one vote of “present.”

“The president will be able to sign it as soon as he likes,” said Rep. Rob Andrews of New Jersey, who added later on the House floor he would support “an imperfect bill” in hopes of stimulating job creation.

The Senate passed the legislation Wednesday, 81-19.

House Republicans who will move into powerful posts when the GOP takes control in January urged passage of the bill.

Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, in line to become majority leader, said the measure, while not perfect, marked a “first step” toward economic recovery.

Largely marginalized in the negotiations leading to the bill, Democrats emphasized their unhappiness with Obama.

“We stand today with only one choice: Pay the ransom now or pay more ransom later,” said Rep. Brad Sherman of California. “This is not a place Democrats want to be. But, ultimately, it is better to pay the ransom today than to watch the president pay even more, and I think he’d be willing to pay a bit more next month.”

BoG’s Obispo earns SPHR designation



HAGATNA, Guam — Bank of Guam vice president and human resources administrator Theresa C. Obispo has earned the designation of Senior Professional in Human Resources, or SPHR.

Obispo joined the Bank of Guam in 1989 and served for 14 years in a number of clerical and administrative capacities. She left in 2003 for school and then returned in 2004 and became a loan officer, before leaving the Bank in 2005 to complete her



Obispo

strates the certificant’s successful completion of a comprehensive examination that assesses generalist knowledge of the HR field, including strategic management, workforce planning and employment, HR development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations and occupational health, safety, and security.

Promotion for Orot
In other news, BoG promoted Joy M. Orot to vice president/audit manager.

Orot joined the bank from Sandcastle in 1997, where she was assistant controller. Previously,



Orot

Orot was with Ernst & Young as a senior accountant.

A graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, Orot holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Guam.

She has completed a number of national programs including the American Bankers Association Intermediate Compliance and National Compliance Schools, as well as the Cannon Financial Institute, Fiduciary & Investment Risk Management schools. She is also a Certified Sheshunoff Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) Officer. *(PR)*

Nation

Almost no oil recovered from sand berms

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The big set of sand barriers erected by Louisiana's governor to protect the coastline at the height of the Gulf oil spill was criticized by a presidential commission Thursday as a colossal, \$200 million waste of BP's money so far.

Precious little oil ever washed up on the berms, according to the commission—a finding corroborated by a log of oil sightings and other government documents obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request.

Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal ordered the berms built over the objections of scientists and federal agencies—and secured money from BP to do it—out of frustration over what he saw as inaction by the Obama administration. During the crisis, Jindal boasted that the sand walls were stopping oil from coming ashore, and the idea proved popular in Louisiana.

In its stinging report, however, the commission, appointed by President Barack Obama to investigate the spill, called the project “underwhelmingly effective, overwhelmingly expensive.” Still, the panel did concede that the sand might ultimately prove helpful in Louisiana's long-term effort to restore

its badly eroded coastline.

Jindal disputed the commission's findings on the berms.

“This report is partisan revisionist history at taxpayer expense,” the governor said in a statement. “The report's assertion that the berms did not pass the commission's ‘cost benefit analysis’ is insulting to the thousands of people whose way of life depends on the health of our working coast.”

A BP spokeswoman said the company had no comment.

Over the summer, the state received grudging government approval to build 36 miles of berms, and it has erected roughly 14 miles so far. An estimated 19 million cubic yards of sand has been moved to make the barriers, which rise six feet above sea level and are around 300 feet wide at their base.

BP originally committed \$360 million to the project. Of that, \$195 million has been spent so far.

Garret Graves, who has been helping coordinate the project for the governor, said the state will press on with the project, but will make the sand barriers deeper instead of extending them lengthwise. He said that will allow them to serve a dual purpose: protecting the shoreline



In this Dec. 15, 2010 aerial photo from a southwings.org flight, berm construction by the State of Louisiana is seen along the Chandeleur Islands, in the Gulf of Mexico.

from oil and restoring the coast.

Jindal, a first-term Republican governor and former congressman who has been mentioned as possible presidential hopeful in 2012, has pronounced the sand barriers a “great success.”

“We disagree,” the commission said in its report. “From a long-term coastal restoration perspective, the berms may

indeed be a ‘significant step forward,’ as Gov. Jindal has claimed, but they were not successful for oil spill response.”

The government has said that much of the crude that spewed from BP's well following the April 20 rig explosion was skimmed, burned, collected or dispersed. E-mails, internal reports and a log of oil sight-

ings obtained by AP confirm that very little of the estimated 200 million gallons that gushed from the bottom of the sea has been seen on or recovered from the berms.

In its report, the commission said the National Incident Command—the task force headed for much of the crisis by retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Al-

len—was initially skeptical of the plan, but allowed “political considerations” and influence from the White House to affect its posture toward the project.

Rob Young, a coastal scientist at Western Carolina University, said the \$360 million could have been better spent on removing oil and restoring damaged lands than on a “back-of-the-napkin kind of project” that so far has amounted to nothing more than drawing a “pencil line of sand.”

But Billy Nungesser, president of oil-soaked Plaquemines Parish, said the berm project was absolutely the right decision at the right time.

“It's easier to throw rocks now,” he said. “If they let us armor those islands, it will be the start of the coastal restoration that will protect the marshlands that have been so badly damaged.”

Pearson Cross, a political science professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said the episode will be a “bit of a blow” to Jindal politically, but shouldn't be too much of a problem if the governor continues to hammer home his argument that the state was taking action when Washington wasn't.

“Half the people will believe him,” Cross said.

Senate Dem leader drops nearly \$1.3T spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats controlling the Senate abandoned on Thursday a huge catchall spending measure combining nearly \$1.3 trillion worth of unfinished budget work, including another \$158 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 1,924-page bill collapsed of its own weight after an outcry from conservatives who complained it was stuffed with more than \$8 billion in homestate pet projects known as earmarks and wrapped together 12 bills into a single foot-tall piece of legislation that Democrats had hoped to pass with just a couple of days' worth of debate.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., gave up on the bill after several Republicans who had been thinking of voting for it pulled back their support.

GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky threw his weight against the bill in recent days, saying it was “unbelievable” that Democrats would try to muscle through in the days before Christmas legislation that usually takes months to debate.

Police: NJ prostitute not among 4 bodies on beach

SMITHTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—A missing New Jersey prostitute was not among the four women whose bodies were found over the past week on a deserted beach highway in New York, detectives said Thursday.

Investigators believe a serial killer could be responsible for the deaths. None of the remains, however, are that of Shannon Gilbert, who was reported missing in May, Suffolk County Police said in a statement.

Police on Long Island discovered the first of the four bodies on Saturday while investigating Gilbert's disappearance. The other three were found within a quarter mile of each other on Monday.

Suspicions that the 24-year-old might be among the victims were sparked by revelations that Gilbert was last seen in a private community about three miles from where the bodies were found.

A man believed to be among the last people to see Gilbert voluntarily surrendered his SUV to detectives as part of their investigation. Police never identified the man, nor anyone else, as a suspect in either Gilbert's disappearance or the four deaths.

The man, Joseph Brewer, owns a house in Oak Beach, near where the bodies were found. He said Thursday that officers had asked him not to comment on whether his SUV had been returned.

“They have been very gener-



K-9 unit police use a cadaver dog to search an area in Oak Beach, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, on New York's Long Island, as authorities continue scouring a 10-mile stretch of beach access road where four bodies were discovered this week.

ous. And I have been cooperative, too,” he said, adding that he'd been drawn into the whole affair by “rumor.”

“There's four families missing their four young girls; those are the true victims. I feel sorry for them,” he said, adding that he was praying for them and the family of Shannon Gilbert.

Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer has said it could be days or weeks before the bodies are identified. The New York City medical examiner's office is assisting with identification.

He sought to calm community fears at a briefing Thursday.

“I don't want anybody to think we have a Jack the Ripper running around Suffolk County with blood dripping from a knife,”

Dormer said. “I would say to people, go about your business.”

Detectives believe the four women were killed elsewhere and then taken to the site, a narrow strip of land that divides the Great South Bay from the Atlantic Ocean. A parkway runs through the middle, connecting Jones Beach State Park with several state- and town-run beaches to its east.

Authorities have obtained a DNA sample from the mother of a missing Maine woman last seen working as an escort on Long Island. Megan Waterman, who advertised her escort services on the online classifieds site Craigslist, was last seen in June at a Hauppauge, N.Y., hotel. The hotel is about 15 miles from where the bodies were found this week.

ACROSS THE NATION

Guard who shot Fla. gunman back to work as Santa

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The security chief with the white beard and hair credited with helping save the lives of several school board members was already well-known in his Panama City community as “Savage Santa.” Mike Jones, a former police officer, shot and wounded 56-year-old Clay Duke Tuesday after the gunman began firing at members of the Bay County School Board. Jones had just arrived at the building when Duke interrupted the meeting. After being hit several times, Duke shot himself in the head. “I wasn't there five minutes and I was in a gunfight,” Jones, 57, said at a news conference. “They said the gunbattle lasted 13 seconds but it seemed like it was forever.”

Oklahoma executes man using new drug combination

MCALESTER, Okla. (AP)—Oklahoma officials executed a convicted murderer Thursday using a drug combination that includes a sedative commonly used to euthanize animals, after a nationwide shortage of a key ingredient forced the state

to tinker with the usual formula. John David Duty was pronounced dead at 6:18 p.m. at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. The 58-year-old, who was sentenced to die for strangling his cellmate nearly a decade ago, is believed to be the first person in the United States whose execution included the use of pentobarbital. Strapped to a gurney and wearing an eye patch over his right eye, the heavysset Duty apologized to his victim's family.

Calif. regulators OK major greenhouse gas rules

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California regulators on Thursday approved the first system in the nation to give polluting companies such as utilities and refineries financial incentives to emit fewer greenhouse gases. The Air Resources Board voted 9-1 to pass the key piece of California's 2006 climate law—called AB32—with the hope that other states will follow the lead of the world's eighth largest economy. State officials also are discussing plans to link the new system with similar ones under way or being planned in Canada, Europe and Asia.

Asia

New Japan defense policy focuses on China

TOKYO (AP)—Japan needs to focus on the rise of China and not the Cold War threat of Russia in defining its security goals, according to new defense guidelines announced Friday.

The guidelines, which were approved by the Cabinet, also call for a stronger alliance with the U.S.—Japan's biggest ally—and expanded security networks with regional partners, including South Korea and Australia.

To bolster its forces, Japan will acquire new submarines and fighter jets, upgrade its missile defense capabilities and make its ground forces more mobile so that they can quickly respond to emergencies in southwest Japan.

The guidelines paint China as a bigger threat than Russia and say Japan is shifting its defense emphasis from the northern island of Hokkaido to islands in the south, such as Okinawa and territories claimed by both Tokyo and

Beijing that have recently led to diplomatic tensions.

The Japan-U.S. alliance remains "indispensable" to Japan's security, the guideline said, calling for stronger cooperation between Japanese and the 47,000 U.S. armed forces based in this country. It also urged Japan to use its diplomatic and defense capabilities "more proactively."

But the guidelines cited "changes in global power balance" and noted a relative decline of America's strength and rise of emerging countries such as China and India. Japan, meanwhile, should pursue its own efforts to enhance missile defense capabilities to protect itself from threats by China and North Korea, it said.

"We still have lots of tanks and Ground Self-Defense Forces on Hokkaido and we need to shift to the southwestern islands," a senior government official said on condition

of anonymity before the official release of the guidelines. The official said the goal is to "modernize our defense posture from our Cold War days."

The guidelines said China's rapid military buildup and lack of transparency are matters of concern.

It said North Korea's military activity is a "pressing and serious destabilizing factor" for Japan and causes grave problems for international nonproliferation efforts.

"The Korean Peninsula and North Korea are imminent and concrete threats to Japan, while China is more of a medium-term threat ... It is a major risk factor for Japan's security in the southwestern islands and the Japan-U.S. security alliance in the long run," said Hideshi Takesada, executive director at the National Institute for Defense Studies. "The guideline addresses such concerns and developments in the region."

US governor visits NKorea in bid to calm tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A high-profile U.S. state governor visited North Korea on Friday trying to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula as South Korea planned to conduct artillery drills similar to ones that prompted Pyongyang to shell a front-line island last month.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who has frequently been an unofficial envoy to the North, began the first full day of his trip, though details of his schedule were unclear. He was greeted at Pyongyang's airport by a senior North Korean official after telling reporters in Beijing he expected to be given some sort of message by the North.

"My objective is to see if we can reduce the tension in the

Korean peninsula," Richardson said at the airport in North Korea, according to Associated Press Television News. "I'm going to have a whole series of talks with North Korean officials, and I look forward to my discussions."

Meanwhile, in South Korea, the Joint Chiefs of Staffs said in a statement that marines based on Yeonpyeong Island, a tiny fishing community with military bases near the Koreas' disputed sea border, will stage one-day live-fire drills sometime between Saturday and Tuesday. Weather and other factors will determine the exact time.

Similar artillery exercises Nov. 23 were met with a rain of North Korean shells that killed

two marines and two construction workers, destroyed homes and shops and raised fears of renewed war. The North says the waters around the island are its territory. The assault was the first by the North to target a civilian area since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The South Korean statement said the impending Yeonpyeong drills are part of "routine, justified" exercises that the South regularly conducts to protect its western islands. Representatives of the American-led U.N. Command that oversees the armistice that ended the Korean War will observe the drills on the island, which is just seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores.

award ceremony, a human rights group said Friday. Liu's brother Liu Xiaoguang told the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights & Democracy that the Jinzhou prison notified the family of the suspension recently. The rights center announced it on the family's behalf. The telephone at the prison rang unanswered.

Official: Bomb hits Afghan minibus, killing 14

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bomb destroyed a crowded minibus Thursday in western Afghanistan, killing 14 passengers who were all members of an extended family, a provincial official said. Violence has been on the rise across much of Afghanistan, even as the White House released a generally positive review of its military strategy here. Rafi Behrozan, the spokesman for the Herat governor, said four others were wounded in the powerful morning blast in the Kushk Kuhna district of Herat province. Two additional bombs were found nearby on the same road but were defused by Afghan policemen, he added.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japanese man attacks students with knife; 13 hurt

TOKYO (AP)—An unemployed Japanese man with a knife attacked grade school students aboard a bus Friday in a rampage that left 13 people injured, police said. Police arrested Yuta Saito, 27, on charges of attempted murder after he was subdued by a resident during the melee near the Toride Station in Ibaraki Prefecture, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo, local police spokesman Masaru Morita said. Eleven of the injured were junior high and high school students, fire department spokesman Shireka Iyoka said. One of the injured has wounds that will require several weeks of treatment in hospital, while the others were not seriously injured, he said.

Family: China denies prison visits to Nobel winner

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese prison where Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo is held has suspended visits by his family members and his wife remains under house arrest, a week after the

World



Supporters of longtime opposition leader Alassane Ouattara whose presidential election victory has been acknowledged by the U.N., U.S., France and the African Union take to the streets in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Thursday Dec. 16, 2010.

At least 20 killed in Ivory Coast clashes

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Forces loyal to the two men claiming Ivory Coast's presidency clashed in the streets of the commercial capital Thursday, killing at least 20 people and bolstering fears that the world's top cocoa producer is on the verge of another civil war.

Explosions and gunfire were heard throughout Abidjan—once known as the "Paris of Africa" for its cosmopolitan nightlife and chic boutiques.

An errant rocket-propelled grenade struck an outer perimeter wall of the U.S. Embassy, but no injuries were reported and the damage was minor, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said in Washington.

Ivory Coast has been operating with two presidents and two governments since a disputed

Nov. 28 runoff election. Alassane Ouattara was declared the winner by the country's electoral commission and was recognized by the U.N., U.S., France and the African Union as having beaten incumbent Laurent Gbagbo. The next day, however, the constitutional council overturned the results after invalidating a half-million votes from Ouattara strongholds.

Crowley said a combined delegation from the African Union and the Economic Community Of West African States would be in Abidjan soon "to continue to encourage President Gbagbo to step aside."

The bloodshed in Abidjan is part of a risky push by Ouattara to take control of state institutions after the balloting that many hoped would reunite the

West African nation following a 2002-03 war that split it in two.

Amnesty International warned that the regional powerhouse "has never been so close to a resumption of civil war."

"Every effort must be done to prevent further escalation of violence," the group said.

The United States and other nations have given Gbagbo an ultimatum to step down and leave Ivory Coast within days or face travel and financial sanctions, a senior Obama administration official said.

The official said the U.S., the U.N, France and the African Union had passed the message to Gbagbo's camp that "he has to go," and that there were signs he might agree. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the ongoing discussions.

30,000 killed in Mexico's drug violence since 2006

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico said Thursday that more than 30,000 people have been killed in drug violence since President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown against cartels in late 2006.

The government said the violent La Familia cartel in western Mexico has been "systematically weakened" by recent arrests and deaths of leading members of the gang.

Attorney General Arturo Chavez Chavez told reporters

that about 12,500 people were killed between January and November, compared to 9,600 for all of 2009. That was an increase from the last official report of deaths in the drug war, in August, when the country's intelligence agency director said 28,000 had died. In a joint statement later Thursday, Chavez Chavez's office, the army, federal police and navy said the La Familia cartel was reeling from the recent deaths or arrests of some of its leaders.

It said the cartel had begun to pursue false propaganda campaigns depicting itself as a protector of inhabitants of the western state of Michoacan.

"The systematic weakening of this criminal group due to the actions of the federal government has forced some of its members to adopt false rhetoric about helping the people of Michoacan, when in fact their operational methods are to terrorize and rob them," according to the statement.

WORLD BRIEFS

Jamaica PM pins blame on lax counter-drug unit

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Prime Minister Bruce Golding said Thursday his government shook up an anti-drug police unit after Cuba complained that the force had been uncooperative in preventing Jamaican drug smugglers using speedboats and small planes to move narcotics. Golding's announcement followed the publication of a leaked U.S. diplomatic memo that portrayed Jamaican anti-drug officers as being so unre-

sponsive that more than a dozen Cuban officials privately vented their frustrations to a U.S. drug enforcer in 2009.

Suicide bombing stirs Sweden's far-right

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The bombs had barely exploded in Stockholm's bustling shopping district before members of the far-right, Islam-bashing Sweden Democrats rushed to their blogs and Twitter feeds. "Told you so," said one. "Finally" tweeted another. The govern-

ment and just about every editorial page has warned against blaming Sweden's growing Muslim minority for the Dec. 11 suicide attack carried out by an Iraqi-born Swede, who appears to have been radicalized in Britain. But the far-right fringe is doing just that in another challenge to Sweden's famed tolerance, already frayed in recent months by the Sweden Democrats' entry into Parliament and a serial gunman's sniper attacks against people with dark skin.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, December 18, 2010

All set for Paskong Pinoy 2010

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The stage has been built and decorations have been set up for this year's much awaited Filipino-style Christmas celebration on Saipan.

Organized by the United Filipino Organization, Paskong Pinoy 2010 is scheduled today from 4pm to 9pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral grounds.

UFO president Olive Yana said Paskong Pinoy serves as the culminating activity for the umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan.

According to Yana, a lot of contests, fun games, and prizes are in store for all those who will participate in today's event.

"We Filipinos should enjoy and have fun this Christmas despite the challenging times," said Yana.

Program coordinator Minda Castro said they will have the

usual lantern making contest, belen making contest, choral and children's singing contests. Cash prizes are at stake for the contest winners, and a raffle drawing.

She said they will also hold a raffle draw. For only \$1 per ticket, people will have a chance to win exciting prizes donated by event sponsors.

Castro told Saipan Tribune that for the lantern and belen making contests, entries must be made using recyclable or indigenous materials.

"Aside from using those materials, they really need to be creative to have a chance to win cash prizes," she added.

Castro said there will be two judging rounds for the lantern making contest. Entries will be judged during the day and at night when the lanterns will be lit up.

Aside from the contests, a number of groups will perform special presentations during the program.

Among the performers are



A man makes traditional star-shaped lanterns along the sidewalk in one of Manila's bargain district of Sta. Cruz in Manila, the Philippines. The United Filipino Organization aims to reacquaint Filipinos on Saipan with their holiday cultural traditions through Paskong Pinoy 2010, scheduled today from 4pm to 9pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral grounds.

Uncle Ben's Music and Dance Studio, Body Movers, Cornerstone Performing Arts Team, Revolutionary Mix, Light and Salt Community, Cutie Kids Dance Group, Umang Glee Club from Koblerville, Erica Fae Tavera, Green Meadow School

Dance Crew, and Glen Mesina.

Castro said there will also be presentation from UFO officers and members to make Christmas for the Saipan Filipino community a special one.

She added that Hapi D' Clown will also be present during the

event to provide entertainment for the event's younger guests.

Challenging times

Castro admitted that organizing this year's Paskong Pinoy was particularly challenging for their group.

"Fortunately, we still got donors and sponsors but it wasn't as much as before. Most of the companies who supported this event either cut their donations in half or gave in-kind donations," she said.

Still, Castro said, the group really made sure to make this event happen for all their kabayans to lessen their homesickness this holiday season.

"We want to make the Filipino community on Saipan feel the spirit of Christmas even though we're away from home on this occasion. So even if it's challenging for everybody, we managed to pull it through," she said.

Castro urged the community to celebrate Christmas on Saipan by taking part in Paskong Pinoy 2010.

She said those who are still interested to perform during the event or join the contests may still do so. For more information, contact Minda Castro at 235-4286 or 989-0604.

'Merry Christmas' banned at Manila int'l airport

MANILA, Philippines—Immigration officers at the Philippines' main international airport are being prohibited from wishing passengers a Merry Christmas.

The directive was issued to avoid the impression that the officers were soliciting Christmas gifts and tips from passengers, said Ronaldo Ledesma, officer in charge at the Bureau of Immigration.

Ledesma said immigration officers at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport should instead smile to greet passengers.

"While it is mandatory for all immigration officers in our airports to always smile while on duty, they are forbidden from greeting passengers Merry Christmas," he said.

"Such gesture, even if sincere, might be misconstrued as asking for a tip so it's better that they refrain from extending the greeting," he added.

Earlier, the Bureau of Customs issued a similar ban and instead decided to just place "Merry Christmas" streamers at the arrival and departure areas of the airport's three terminals. (MCT)

Filipinos attend 'Simbang Gabi' on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos on Saipan trooped to various churches early Thursday morning to mark the beginning of the *Simbang Gabi* (Dawn Mass) tradition.

Simbang Gabi, the nine-day novena dawn Masses that begins every Dec. 16, has become part of the Filipino culture and tradition in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

Masses are usually held be-

tween 3am to 5am in churches where Christmas decorations are set up. After the Mass, churchgoers typically feast on native delicacies such as *puto bumbong*, *bibingka*, and *suman*.

The *Simbang Gabi* tradition is so popular that it has transcended locations, with Filipinos observing the Christmas tradition around the globe, including Saipan.

"That's because *Simbang Gabi* is very important for Filipinos who belong to the Catholic faith," explained United

Filipino Organization president Olive Yana.

Yana's group and the Philippine Consulate General served as sponsor coordinators for the first dawn Mass at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Yana said the cathedral was packed out on Dec. 16, like how it has always been at the beginning of the *Simbang Gabi* on Saipan.

According to Yana, those who remain on island still carry on the Christmas tradition despite the economic crisis and the sig-

nificant decrease in the Filipino population on Saipan.

"Filipinos have come and gone here and we do experience the worst economic situation the island has ever seen. Still, Filipinos support this tradition because Christmas continues to be an important family affair for all of us," she said.

Eddie Caranzo, member of the Saipan *Simbanag Gabi* Group, affirmed that the success of the first two days of the Christmas tradition on Saipan can be attributed to the fact that

majority of Filipinos are part of the Catholic faithful.

Saipan *Simbang Gabi* Group is a non-profit corporation created to start the Christmas tradition as well as address classroom shortage in the Philippines by raising more funds during the holidays to build more classrooms for public schools.

"We at Saipan *Simbang Gabi* Group are very happy indeed for the outcome for two days now," said Caranzo who is also a sponsor coordinator for the Dec. 20 Mass.

OFW inflows hit record \$1.67 billion in October

By LAWRENCE AGCAOILI
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—The amount of money sent home by Filipinos abroad hit a new monthly record of \$1.673 billion in October as overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sent more money to their loved ones in the Philippines in time for the Christmas season, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday.

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. announced yesterday that remittances in October rose by 9.3 percent, or \$142 million, from the \$1.531 billion booked in the same month last year.

Tetangco said the highest

monthly level of OFW remittances eclipsed the previous monthly record of \$1.623 billion registered last June.

"Remittances from overseas Filipinos coursed through banks grew 9.3 percent in October 2010 to reach \$1.7 billion, the highest monthly level posted during the year," he stressed.

In terms of percentage growth, the 9.3 percent increase in remittances last October was slower than the double digit 10.6 percent growth registered last September.

For the first 10 months of the year, the Tetangco said that remittances increased by 7.9 percent to \$15.456 billion from \$14.231 billion in the same pe-

riod last year.

"The sustained remittance flows into the country were due to the sustained robust demand for skilled and professional Filipinos," he said.

Major sources of remittances that accounted for 84 percent of the total amount of money sent home through banks included the US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Japan, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany, and Norway.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that approved job orders stood 578,535 in the first 11 months of the year. The bulk of the processed job orders were for ser-

vice, production as well as professional, technical, and related workers in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

The BSP believes that more Filipinos would be deployed abroad after the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported the plan of employers in Algeria to hire more workers for various infrastructure projects as well as the proposed construction of a military base in Guam in the last quarter of 2011.

"Looking ahead, the deployment outlook for Filipinos overseas also remained upbeat given continuing bilateral talks with some host countries, aimed at matching manpower

requirements with the competencies of Filipino workers," Tetangco added.

He also cited the continuing efforts to improve on the variety and coverage of the global remittance networks enabling more overseas Filipinos to send remittances using more innovative financial services offered in the market.

"This, combined with the increasing presence of bank and non-bank money transfer conduits both locally and internationally as well as the expanding range of products and services offered by financial intermediaries to overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries, contributed to the strong inflow of remittances," Tetangco explained.

Filipinos working abroad fuel real estate boom at home

By MYNARDO MACARAIG
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANILA—The Philippines' famous diaspora of overseas workers is fuelling a boom in the real estate market back home as they snap up houses and apartments to safeguard their futures.

Property prices have recovered strongly since the global financial crisis of 2008, with investments from the nine million Filipinos toiling away in foreign lands a significant factor, industry figures say.

"Overseas workers are moving the market. Properties now are selling and when there is demand, prices go up," Emily Duterte, head of the Real Estate

Brokers Association of the Philippines, told AFP.

Industry sales nationwide this year are estimated to hit 300 billion pesos (6.9 billion dollars) compared with about 100 billion each in 2009 and 2008, according to Claro Cordero from Jones Lang La Salle, a global real estate consultancy firm.

"Nobody thought there would be such a quick recovery from the slump that began in 2008," said Cordero, research head of the company's Philippines' branch.

Filipino workers abroad have a reputation for working as lower-paid employees, such as construction workers, maids, sailors, and janitors.

But their sheer magnitude—

they account for about 10 percent of the Philippine population—mean they have long been a major force in the economy.

In 2009, they sent home 17.3 billion dollars, making up more than 10 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, according to government data.

And Filipinos are increasingly moving into higher-paid sectors, such as medicine, engineering, and the media.

Overseas workers usually opt for houses costing about two million pesos (45,000 dollars), humble by foreign standards but well in the middle-class bracket for Filipinos, according to Duterte from the brokers' association.

Fifty-year-old merchant seaman Rodolfo Oliverio has spent

most of his working life outside of the Philippines but he is an active player in the domestic real estate market.

Oliverio has used his overseas earnings to buy two small houses in the heart of Manila for his wife and children to live in, and he is paying for a third he recently bought just outside the nation's capital.

"If you work here, nothing will happen. The salaries are too small. The only way to afford a house is to become an overseas worker," Oliverio told AFP while on his annual vacation in Manila.

"Naturally, among overseas workers, the most important thing is a house and lot."

Oliverio said that as a ship's

bosun—the crew's foreman—for a foreign company, he earned about 82,800 pesos a month, roughly four times more than he could earn doing the same job with a local cargo line.

With his salary, he said he was confident he could afford the repayments on his third house, a middle-class 42-square-meter (452-square-foot) place south of Manila which cost a little over 1.5 million pesos.

Industry observers said Oliverio's real estate goals were typical of many overseas workers.

"Most have left families back home so they want to have a home for their families. Their children, their parents, these are the ones who stay in the houses they buy," said Duterte.

Filipinos have traditionally preferred living in houses, no matter how small, over apartments, but living overseas has started to change preferences.

Overseas workers have revitalized the condominium market, said Manuel Serrano, head of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association.

"In the beginning, they were more interested in house and lots but in the last two years, the tempo has changed. The demand now is for condos," Serrano told AFP.

"Most of these people have gotten used to the lifestyle abroad and, in condos, they don't have to worry about doing a lot of cleaning, gardening, and watering of plants."

Jobless misery in PH despite economic growth

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—The number of jobless Filipinos increased to 2.8 million as of October, up from 2.7 million in July, the National Statistics Office said Wednesday.

Based on the NSO's latest Labor Force Survey, the unemployment rate inched up to 7.1 percent in October from 6.9 percent three months earlier.

The October unemployment rate stood at 7.1 percent, unchanged from a year earlier but up slightly from July's 6.9 percent, according to the latest quarterly report from the National Statistics Office.

The rate of underemployment—representing people working less than 40 hours a week and looking for fuller employment—jumped to 19.6 percent in October, compared with 19.4 percent a year earlier and 17.9 percent in July.

The weak employment numbers come despite the economy growing 7.5 percent in the first three quarters of the year.

The official figures also understate the employment problems in the Philippines, where a third of the population lives on a dollar a day or less.

Although 61.2 million of the Philippines' 95 million people are aged 15 and over, the statistics agency said just 39.3 million could be considered part of the labour force, with many others not even looking for work.

The October data also showed that one in three members of the Filipino workforce were unskilled.

Foreign business leaders in the Philippines say that to cut widespread poverty, annual economic growth must reach 9-10 percent and overseas investments need to rise more than 40-fold to 75 billion dollars.

This would create 10 million jobs yearly instead of just the one million or so being created now, seven chambers of commerce said in a study released on Monday. *With a report from Ronnel Domingo, Philippine Daily Inquirer*



OBLATION RUN

Hundreds of students watch as members of the Alpha Phi Omega run naked during their traditional "Oblation Run" through the University of the Philippines campus at Diliman in suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010. The naked run, now on its 33rd year, called for justice for the victims of the explosion last September at the Bar Examinations that injured several people, with two of the law student victims having their legs amputated.

Most OFW destinations have not been certified as safe, says POEA

By PHILIP TUBEZA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs has so far certified less than half of more than 180 countries around the world as nations where overseas Filipino workers can be "deployed," the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief said Tuesday.

POEA administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili said her agency was also reviewing these certifications because the DFA certified some countries using qualifications other than those set by the new Republic Act 10022, or the amended Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act.

Under the controversial RA 10022, OFWs can be sent only to countries where their rights are protected. The DFA certifies which countries meet this criteria and this certification will then have to be approved by the POEA governing board.

The law states that a country viable for OFW deployment should have existing labor and social laws protecting rights

of workers, including migrant workers; it should be a signatory of bilateral or multilateral agreements relating to the protection of migrant workers; or it has taken "positive and concrete measures" to protect migrant workers.

Manalili said the deadline for certifying countries was also moved to January 24 for nations with Philippine embassies and February 24 for countries that do not have a Philippine diplomatic post.

"Even before (the initial) deadline of November 24, all the 65 countries (that have PH embassies) were able to submit (certifications), including major markets in the Middle East," Manalili said in a press briefing.

"I also think that less than 20 (countries that do not have PH diplomatic posts) were also able to submit. This would be the greater part because if my recollection is correct, there are around 120 countries (that do not have PH diplomatic posts)," she added.

Manalili said the DFA, POEA, and the labor department were also thinking of

sending missions to other countries to inform them about this certification system.

Meanwhile, prominent groups, individuals, and churches of the Filipino community in Hong Kong have issued a manifesto urging the government to spare the former British colony from another controversial provision of RA 10022: the mandatory insurance of new agency-hired OFWs.

"Our livelihood is at stake. Protection for overseas Filipino workers should not cost us our jobs nor should it be a financial burden for OFWs," said the manifesto, signed by 130 groups and individuals led by Unifil-Migrante.

The manifesto pointed out that HK employers already take out insurance policies, with better benefits, for their domestic workers because this is required by HK laws.

"It is thus ironic that the new mandatory insurance scheme...in reality puts our jobs at risk, threatens our future, and poses further strain to the already vulnerable condition of overseas Filipino workers," the manifesto said.

Peso falls as more news of Europe debt woes come in

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine peso nearly touched the 44-to-a-dollar territory and led the decline among major Asian currencies on Wednesday, as concerns over the debt situation in Europe prompted investors to shift to the US dollar.

The local currency closed at 43.94 against the greenback, down by 14 centavos from 43.8 on Tuesday. Intraday high hit 43.88:\$1, while intraday low settled at 43.99.

Volume of trade fell to \$840.9 million from \$873.16 million previously.

Traders said the peso and other currencies of emerging Asian markets—such as Indian rupee, Korean won, Malaysian ringgit, and Singaporean dollar—were

dampened by lingering concerns over the debt situation of countries in the Euro zone.

Traders say that in times of uncertainty, investors normally shift their investments into the US dollar, which is still perceived to be the most liquid.

Market analysts said that the

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P44.20

overall outlook on emerging Asian markets has remained positive, but that external factors, mainly the debt crisis in Europe, have been dragging sentiment for the Euro and even Asian currencies.

They said the peso would likely trade within the 43 and 44 levels throughout the rest of the year, stronger than the 45-to-a-dollar territory seen toward the end of 2009.

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

Poll: 9 of 10 Pinoys hopeful about 2011

By HELEN FLORES
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—Nearly nine in 10 Filipinos look to 2011 with hope, buoyed by the reform agenda of President Aquino, with just one in 20 feeling apprehensive, results of a recent Pulse Asia survey showed.

“There is a perception that things will be better because we have a new administration,” Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia chief researcher, said.

However, Tabunda warned that optimism levels would go down if the economy did not improve, adding that a Philippine president’s approval ratings tended to go down the longer he or she had been in office.

She said Aquino, who won a landslide election victory in May, and many

of his Cabinet members enjoyed high approval ratings owing to his vow to crack down on corruption, which was generally believed to be widespread under his predecessor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a Pampanga congresswoman.

“It gives them hope. His campaign really linked graft and corruption to poverty. We are seeing this resonate,” Tabunda said.

Pulse Asia’s October “Survey on the Holiday Season” polled 1,200 people nationwide from Oct. 20 to Oct. 29.

The survey found 89 percent of Filipinos expressing high hopes for the coming year.

Pulse Asia said optimism is the predominant public sentiment, with huge majorities across geographic areas (87 percent to 93 percent) and socio-economic classes (88 percent to 96 percent) saying they would face the coming year with hope.

“Except for the 13-percentage point increase recorded between October 2009 and October 2010, in the percentage of Metro Manilans who are hopeful about the year 2011, public opinion on this matter is generally unchanged year-on-year,” Pulse Asia said.

Meanwhile, the survey also showed 50 percent of Filipinos expecting this year’s Christmas season to be the same as last year.

This sentiment is shared by more than half of those in the rest of Luzon (54 percent) and Metro Manila (65 percent), as well as in the most numerous Class D (50 percent) and the best-off Class ABC (67 percent).

Furthermore, those expecting a more

prosperous Christmas this year outnumbered those expressing a contrary view or 39 percent versus 11 percent.

A small majority or 55 percent of those in the Visayas thought this year’s Christmas season would be better than last year.

In Mindanao and the poorest Class E, nearly the same percentages expect a better Christmas this year (41 percent to 42 percent) or say this year’s Christmas season will not be any different from last year (45 percent to 46 percent).

“Year-on-year, there is an increase in the percentage of Filipinos expecting a more prosperous Christmas season (+10 percentage points) and a decline in the percentage of those who are expecting otherwise (-11 percentage points),” Pulse Asia said.

The survey also showed more Metro

Manilans think this year’s Christmas season will be the same as last year (53 percent to 65 percent) while more Visayans expect a better Christmas season (35 percent to 55 percent).

On the other hand, the survey showed a drop in the percentage of Metro Manilans and Visayans expecting a less prosperous Christmas season (-12 to -20 percentage points).

Across socio-economic classes, more of those in Classes D and E are inclined to believe that this year’s Christmas season will be better than last year (+10 to +15 percentage points) while those saying otherwise have declined -10 to -16 percentage points.

The survey has sampling error margin of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

Aquino, BSP launch new generation of bank notes

By LAWRENCE AGCAOILI
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—President Aquino and officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) yesterday launched the new generation bank notes, the first time a bank note was signed by a president with a photo of his parents on it.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of former president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was taken out of the P200 bank note.

In his speech during the launching of the bank notes yesterday in Malacañang, Aquino said that it made him “happy” to sign a P500 bank note with a photo of his parents, the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and President Corazon Aquino, on it.

“The last time I checked, I have never seen a banknote signed by a president with his or her parents on it,” the Chief Executive stressed.

He pointed out that the continued strengthening of the peso against the US dollar makes it more attractive for criminal syndicates to counterfeit the bank notes and paper bills.

BSP Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. said the release of the new bank notes and paper bills would make it difficult and expensive for counterfeiters to produce fake money. “This project took us three years from conceptualization to printing. Now we will be able to stay ahead of the



AP

In this photo released by Malacañang Palace in Manila, President Benigno Aquino III holds the new design of Philippine pesos during the launching of the new generation of Philippine banknotes at the Presidential Palace in Manila Thursday Dec. 16, 2010 in the Philippines.

counterfeiters,” Tetangco stressed.

All six banknote denominations — including P20, P50, P100, P200, P500, and P1,000 — have new designs but the old colors were retained.

The blue-colored P1,000 bill still features World War II heroes Jose Abad Santos, Josefa Llanes Escoda and Gen. Vicente Lim; the yellow P500 bill now features the late President Aquino and late Sen. Aquino; the green P200 with the late President Diosdado Macapagal; the purple P100 with the late President Manuel Roxas; the red P50 with former President Sergio Osmeña; and the orange P20 with former President Manuel Quezon.

On the reverse side, the P1,000 bill now features the 130,00-hectare Tubbataha Reefs National Park and the South Sea Pearl Pinctada Maxima, while the P500 bill features the eight-kilometer Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan and the blue-napped parrot known as *Tanygnathus Lucionensis*.

On the reverse side of the P200 bill, the inauguration of former President Arroyo was replaced with the Bohol Chocolate Hills and the tarsier.

The P100 bill features the Mayon volcano and the whale shark locally known as *butanding*, while the reverse side of the P50 bill features Taal Lake and the *maliputo* fish. The P20 bill features the Banaue Rice Terraces and the palm civet of the Cordilleras.

Philippines calls on rebels to respect cease-fire

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government challenged communist rebels to respect a 19-day cease-fire that took effect Thursday, even as the guerrillas accused troops of mounting an offensive against them the same day.

The government remains committed to the Dec. 16-Jan. 3 Christmas cease-fire despite an ambush Tuesday by suspected guerrillas who killed 10 soldiers returning to their camp in the central Philippines, said Teresita Deles, President Benigno Aquino III’s peace adviser.

A 9-year-old boy was killed in the crossfire in the attack that also wounded two other soldiers in Northern Samar province.

A unit of the New People’s Army in Rizal province adjacent to Manila said in a statement Thursday that army soldiers and police special forces were searching for guerrillas and harrasing residents in two villages.

The cease-fire agreement was reached during informal talks between government and rebel peace negotiators in Hong Kong earlier this month. The two sides also agreed to resume formal talks that have been suspended for more than six years in February in Oslo, Norway, after preparatory meetings in January.

Norway is brokering the talks for a political settlement of one of Asia’s longest-running insurgencies.

The rebels will mark the 42nd founding of the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines on Dec. 26, the day after Christmas.

In her statement, Deles said she was “disheartened” by news of the rebel ambush especially since the soldiers were returning to their camp to comply with the cease-fire.

“This incident mars an otherwise momentous agreement forged during the informal talks held in Hong Kong a few weeks ago,” she said.

In a separate statement, the government peace panel expressed “grave concern” over the “treacherous attack” but declared “steadfast determination that we all the more enjoin and call on both sides to be vigilant and resolute in the observance of the cease-fire” and prevent further violence.

“We should not lower our guard” against any rebel activity, said Philippine army spokesman Lt. Col. Antonio Parlade.

Troops will still conduct “some limited security operations” and pursue rebels who attack government forces, he said.

The rebels’ Narciso Antazo Aramil Command in Rizal province said in a statement that all guerrilla fighters have been ordered to cease all offensives against soldiers and police but to also remain vigilant.

It said army soldiers and the police Special Action Force allegedly violated the cease-fire by “scouring” two villages for guerrillas in the boundary of Rizal and Bulacan provinces and “sowing fear and terror among farmers and residents.”

It warned soldiers not to violate the truce “for you to be able to celebrate the yuletide season alive with your families.”

Philippines plans aid for Hong Kong bus hostages

HONG KONG (AP)—The Philippines plans to aid families hurt by the hostage-taking of Hong Kong tourists in Manila in which eight of them were killed, the nation’s tourism chief said Thursday on a visit to the Chinese territory.

Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said the first portion would be cash and a second could come in the form of scholarships or health care assistance. He said details of the “token of solidarity” are still being discussed with the families.

He did not give more details, including who was eligible for the assistance. Eight Hong Kong residents were killed, seven people were wounded and nine were released safely early in the standoff. Those wounded or unharmed included relatives of some of the dead.

Lim spoke after visiting Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang to update him on action taken by the Philippine government since the Aug. 23 hostage-taking.

Authorities were widely criticized as botching their response when an armed ex-policeman took hostages on a passenger bus in Manila. The drama lasted 11 hours and played out live on television, ending with the gunman shooting the captives and a SWAT team killing him.

Ties between Manila and Hong Kong were strained, residents of the low-crime Chinese territory were shocked and thousands of tourists canceled bookings in Philippine resorts.

Lim said he hoped Hong Kong would lift a “black” travel advisory warning residents to avoid all travel to the Philippines because of a severe threat. It is the only country so designated.

He also pledged the Philippines’ cooperation with an inquest to be held in Hong Kong in February into the deaths.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Katrina: 'Mamatay pa ako'



Katrina Halili

Judge inhibits self from Willie Revillame case

By **JULIE M. AURELIO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—To dispel the notion he was biased for either party, a Quezon City judge has agreed to inhibit himself from Willie Revillame's case against his former employer, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

In a two-page order, Judge Luisito Cortez of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 84 granted the TV network's urgent motion asking him to voluntarily inhibit himself from the case.

Revillame, a former ABS-CN talent, filed an P11-million suit against the network in which he asked the court to issue a judicial confirmation of the end of his contract with ABS-CBN.

In retaliation, ABS-CBN filed a P426-million civil suit against Revillame, now with TV5, for reneging on his contract which was supposed to expire in 2011.

The TV network, however, sought the judge's inhibition after Cortez junked its petition for a temporary restraining order against Revillame's new show on TV5.

Cortez, however, ordered the TV host to post a P426-million bond, representing the damages ABS-CBN was asking, to prevent Revillame from doing any undertaking that may do harm to the network.

In his order dated December 13, Cortez said even though ABS-CBN's perception of bias was "mistaken and unfounded," he chose to grant the motion for inhibition lest the network

lose faith in the judicial system.

"While the defendant's (ABS-CBN) perception of partiality or bias is mistaken and unfounded, and should be considered a mere figment of their wild imagination, yet the court cannot close its eyes to the fact that they have lost their faith that this presiding judge can fairly and impartially decide the case or resolve its pending incidents," Cortez said.

The TV network alleged that Cortez had already prejudged the case in favor of Revillame and was "unable to remain neutral and impartial but will be easily swayed by the barrage of publicity for Revillame."

Cortez said he was mindful of the fact that each party in every case is entitled to a neutral judge "who not only appears to be neutral but must be perceived to be impartial."

As of Thursday, Cortez's trial court had transmitted the records of the case to the Office of the Clerk of Court, where it will be re-raffled to another trial court.

Cortez added that ABS-CBN's petition for a review by the Court of Appeals of his order was proof that the network entertained the notion that pending motions would be decided against the network.

"The faith in the judicial system is the paramount and primordial concern of the court in order that such faith in the system must be adhered to at all times," Cortez said.

Cortez said he subjected himself to self-examination and felt it was best that he inhibited himself from the case.

By **ALLAN POLICARPIO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The same day that everybody was glued to the TV set for the Supreme Court decision on the controversial Vizconde massacre case involving Hubert Webb, the junking of Katrina Halili's criminal and civil case against Hayden Kho went by relatively unnoticed.

In a report aired on GMA 7's "24 Oras" on Tuesday, Judge Rodolfo Bonifacio of Pasig RTC Branch 159 dismissed in a 10-page decision the on-line sex video case due to insufficient proof that Halili had no knowledge of the videotaping that took place.

According to the ruling, "It is clear

that evidence is insufficient to prove that the sex video was taken without the private complainant's knowledge. On this score alone, it will already be very hard to hold the accused criminally responsible for his act of taking the sex video."

The ruling also stated that Halili was well aware that Kho possessed a video camera. Citing an ocular inspection by the court, the decision also said it was impossible for Halili not to see the video camera on a table which was no more than five feet away from their bed.

While Kho shed tears of joy over the decision, Halili was the picture of soul-crushing defeat. After the hearing, a distraught Halili faced the media swearing

that she didn't know she was being videotaped while having sex with Kho.

"Mamatay pa 'ko o mamatay pa buong pamilya ko, hindi ko alam (I swear on my life and my family's—I didn't know)," the sultry actress told "24 Oras."

"Yung pinaglalaban ko naman hindi lang para sa akin, para sa ibang tao rin. Ano 'yun? Maulit-ulit lang 'to sa ibang tao, ganun? Nakakakilabot lang," she added.

Despite losing this first round of the fight, Halili and her lawyer, Raymond Palad, vow to press on. They are set to appeal the decision.

Marvin the actor now wants to wear the producer's hat

By **MARINEL R. CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Actor Marvin Agustin said he is looking into the possibility of co-producing a film with Belgian director and scriptwriter Fabrice Du Welz, whom he met when he attended the recently-concluded 37th Brussels International Film Festival (IFF) in Belgium.

"He is coming over to the Philippines soon to start his research," Marvin told Inquirer Entertainment. "This is a dream come true for me. For many years now, I've been considering going into film production but haven't found the perfect material yet."

Du Welz wrote and directed the thriller

"Vinyan," which premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in 2008. He also directed the psychological horror film "Calvaire" in 2004.



Marvin Agustin

Marvin sat as jury member of the Brussels IFF last month—the first Filipino actor invited to judge the prestigious film festival. Mark Meily's "Donor" won the festival's Best Picture award and the film's lead actor, Meryll Soriano, bagged the Best Actress honor.

As jury member, Marvin said his job was to pick the winners from seven full-length and 12 short-film entries. "I'm a fan of Mark Meily. He's really good. I fought for him, but lost one vote," he said. Marvin's film, "Sigwa" (directed by Joel Lamangan), about the pros-

ecution, torture and intrigues during the Marcos regime, was also screened during the week-long event.

"I learned a lot from my experience there. I was impressed with the Brussels IFF's system of choosing the winners. It's very efficient. It just took us a day to deliberate and come up with the list. I'm confident that we came up with a fair decision," Marvin, the juror, said.

He admitted to being a nervous wreck that first time he arrived in Brussels. "I didn't know what to expect. My palms were all sweaty even when the weather was so cold," he recalled. "When I sat down with the other jurors, I decided to just be honest with them. I told them that I've been acting for 14 years but still know very little about the technical aspect of making movies. They all reassured me by telling me to just enjoy the films."

Piolo: To Charo and Gabby with love

By **LEAH C. SALTERIO**
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—"I have to close my eyes and open it again. I couldn't believe it."

That was Piolo Pascual, appearing a bit stunned, after ABS-CBN top executives — Gabby Lopez and Charo Santos-Concio — asked for his autograph during the recent launch of the coffetable book, *Piolo Revealed*.

Gabby and Charo made Piolo sign the respective copies of the book, which contains photos taken and compiled by noted lensman Raymund Isaac.

"I have to pinch myself that my big bosses came up to me and asked me to sign their books," Piolo said. "It was rather hard to believe that."

Despite the dizzying success he's been enjoying, Piolo apparently remains grounded. Without letting success get into his head, he is grateful to

the people who have helped him along the way.

The 200-page, limited edition coffetable book features Piolo's never-before-seen photos taken by Raymund, plus short interviews with the premiere actor. There are also scenic shots in Palawan which Piolo himself captured through his own lens.

One of the highlights of the coffetable book are photos in 3D format, that's why the package comes with 3D glasses for the reader to further appreciate the shots.

Piolo and Raymund's professional association dates a long way back, from the time Piolo did his first starring role in director Mel Chionglo's *Lagarista*, 10 years ago. Since then, Piolo has been working closely with Raymund for the actor's required pictorials, especially for product endorsements.

Also present during the launch at Fully Booked Bonifacio High Street were ABS-CBN executives Deo En-drinal, Johnny Manahan, Mariole Alberto, director Joyce Bernal, Gretchen Barretto, Dr. Vicki Belo and daughter Cristalle Belo Henares, Ervic Vijandre of *Survivor Philippines* and Piolo's now-popular nanny, Moi Bien.

Sweet Cristine Reyes turns bitchy

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Boss Vic del Rosario refuses to comment about the raging tweet war between his two prized Viva wards, Cristine Reyes and Sarah Geronimo.

"Ganun talaga pag star," Boss Vic simply says. Comments Cristine's sis Ara Mina, "Sana mag peace na sila kasi Pasko na. I won't tolerate my sis kung siya ang mali. May dahilan siguro bakit siya nagalit nang sobra. Naging impulsive lang siya sa tweets kasi nadala siya ng emotions niya. But she stopped na. I hope di lumaki ang gulo."

Cristine is fuming mad at Sarah for her comment about Cristine's rumored BF Rayver Cruz: "Pag magaling sumayaw habulin talaga ng mga babaeng sexy." This she said with her mic on during rehearsals for ASAP.

Cristine unleashed a mouthful about Sarah (check it out and follow her on Twitter: pilyangsweet@twitter.com). She even went to the extent of accusing Sarah of having Rayver removed from production numbers in "ASAP" and for running after Rayver who allegedly dumped the singer-actress.

It's hard to imagine how an angelic-looking girl like Cristine could use such foul language. Someone close to her says she goes to extremes. She can be sweet

one moment then turn bitchy the next.

Love child

Not too many people know that Cherie Gil has a love child with Leo Martinez. Their grown-up son who is based abroad is graduating from college soon.

"I'm one proud mama," said Cherie. "Leo was my mentor. We have remained good friends and I am also close to his wife Gina. It's an open secret that we have a kid. It's no big deal."

How are things between her and her ex-husband Roni Rogoff? "We are better off as friends," she said. "Funny thing is when we separated, we became closer. We tell each other crazy stuff like friends do. I'm happily single and back to partying."

Wedding invite

I finally got hold of the beautiful wedding invitation of Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid. It's a booklet containing several cards with breathtaking photos of the couple. Heartwarming Tagalog lines are printed on the inside front cover.

The principal sponsors are Vicki Belo, Sharon Cuneta, Mother Lily Monteverde, Ida Henares, Wilma Galvante, Amparito Lhuillier, Nanette Inventor, Rosario Legarda, Anastacia Puno, Crisanta Villanueva, Jose Mari Chan, Fe-

lipe Gozon, Ronnie Henares, Orlando Ilacad, Michel Lhuillier, German Moreno, Manny Pangilinan, Vic del Rosario, Freddie Santos and Antonio Tuviera.

In lieu of gifts, the couple's request is for guests to donate to any of their favorite charitable institutions: C.U.R.E. Child Foundation, Childhope Asia Philippines, Bridges Foundation Inc., Gawad Kalinga and Operation Smile Philippines.

Agimat meets Enteng

"Si Agimat at Si Enteng Kabisote" brings together two of Philippine cinema's blockbuster legends, Vic Sotto and Bong Revilla Jr., in what is expected to be one of the top-earners in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

The film takes pride in being shot in high definition digital camera, creating a different league of cinematic experience for moviegoers.

Vic portrays Enteng Kabisote, the mortal who merges with fairies to eliminate the dark forces in Encantasia. Bong plays Agimat, the valiant hero from the land of Mahapay who vows to destroy the "halimaws" that have reigned over their land.

Their leading ladies are Sam Pinto as Samara, the love interest of Agimat, and Gwen Zamora as Faye, the fairy wife of Enteng.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Partial justice

We sympathize with the unfortunate Lauro Vizconde, especially since the Supreme Court's acquittal of Hubert Webb and all others convicted in the Vizconde massacre case (including the two who went into hiding and never served a day in prison) means the pain of uncertainty is back to haunt him and other kin. So, if not Webb and company, then who killed Estrellita, Carmela and Jennifer Vizconde on June 30, 1991?

At the same time, we understand the basis of the Court's reasoning: A criminal conviction, no matter how sensational the case or lurid the details, no matter how entrenched people's opinions about it may be, must be based on proof of guilt beyond any reasonable doubt.

It seems to us that the key passage in Justice Roberto Abad's ponencia, written for a majority of 7 out of 11 justices who took part in the deliberations, is the following, and powerful, meditation: "In our criminal justice system, what is important is, not whether the court entertains doubts about the innocence of the accused since an open mind is willing to explore all possibilities, but whether it entertains a reasonable, lingering doubt as to his guilt."

That is worth repeating, in layman's terms: What matters is not doubt about innocence but doubt about guilt.

It does not help, it does not bring closure any closer, when we read Justice Martin Villarama's much more detailed dissenting opinion. That dissent makes a powerful case for just the opposite: that guilt was proven beyond a reasonable doubt. His compelling presentation of the facts and application of the law can only reinforce the views of those who thought Webb et al. were guilty.

We reported extensively on the Vizconde case. But like everyone else, we too must ask ourselves: What if, in fact, there was the slightest iota of doubt about Webb's guilt? If there was the slimmest possibility that the essential facts were not correctly appreciated by the trial court and the Court of Appeals?

Our commitment to civil liberties makes the answer clear: If the tiniest particle of doubt about a person's criminal liability is present, a judge must acquit. That, in sum, is what the Court's majority decision says.

Lauro Vizconde may accuse the Court of partial justice, partial to the influential and the moneyed. We can understand that sentiment, and realize that it is shared by many Filipinos. But what kind of money, of influence, takes 15 years to take effect, to make its decisive presence felt? On the other hand, public pressure is a kind of influence too, and just as disruptive and harmful if applied to the legal process. On this issue, we think the Court decided on the merits, such as they were, of the controversial case.

Then there's this too: With the exception of former fugitives Joey Filart and Artemio Ventura, the convicted did spend 15 years behind bars. Webb was jailed when he was still a young man; when he walked out of prison the other day he was, and looked, middle-aged. This is real punishment, about half the length of a life imprisonment term. (In our view, the real unfortunate consequence of the acquittal is that those who did not share Webb's strongly supported alibi managed to share in its benefits.)

Still, the question remains: What if Webb et al. were actually guilty, but were only finally acquitted because of the incredible, incoherent testimony of principal witness Jessica Alfaro? If that were the case, then perhaps Vizconde and many others who share his pained perspective can take some solace—a little, a bit—in the reality that the guilty got at least half of what they deserved.

Call it partial justice.

© 2010, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Blood under the bridge

Human Face

By MA. CERES P. DOYO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Supreme Court's verdict is out, and it is final. Webb et al., accused and convicted for the crimes of rape and murder now known as the Vizconde massacre, have been acquitted and are walking free after spending 15 years in prison.

One of the things that bothered me about this case (and I have not heard it being stressed enough) is that the suspects, who became the accused in this case, were identified in 1995 or thereabouts, some four years after the crime happened in 1991. Four years is a long time, enough time for the real rapists and murderers to cover their tracks and produce believable alibis in case someone squealed on them and they became the suspects. It is also enough time for the evidence to get cold and for potential prosecution witnesses to conveniently lose their memory or vanish from the face of the earth.

Although the seven former convicts were acquitted, questions remain in people's minds. But in the judgment of the seven justices who voted for acquittal (as against the dissenting four and the inhibiting four), the seven convicts could not be found guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

Well, only God and the people around each of them at the exact time and immediately after the crime was committed could say if the acquitted did or did not commit the crime of the decade. Two decades later many of us ask: What should we believe?

If there is one person who is "morally certain" of the guilt of the acquitted—then and until now—it is Mariano Mison who was head of the National Bureau of Investigation in 1995 when Task Force Jecares was formed. I had a long in-

terview with him at that time and found his "If only I could talk" statement most puzzling. When the accused were convicted in 2000, I tracked down Mison (then already retired) and sprang his 1995 statement on him. He remained steadfast in his belief (bolstered by fearful "silent witnesses") and did not entertain doubts that innocent young men may have been sent to prison. And, yes, he talked. No more "if only."

I do not wish to resurrect the entire 2000 news story based on that interview in this column as that would be like contesting the high court's judgment, or dousing water on the Webbs' rejoicing and deepening the wound of the bereaved and aggrieved Lauro Vizconde. The justices have spoken, period.

But it could be said that Mison brushed aside remarks of celebrity lawyers and intellectuals who openly looked down on the judgment of Regional Trial Court Judge Amelita Tolentino (she is now with the Court of Appeals) and belittled her background as a former bank employee. (She was valedictorian of her law class.) She had done a good job, Mison assured, and it will not be easy for the Supreme Court to overturn her decision, the deriding legal know-it-alls notwithstanding.

I asked him: What if the high court does? "The perpetrators of the crime," he said "will have served many years in jail by then."

But will the poor judge go down in opprobrium? (The Court of Appeals would later uphold her decision.) Mison answered, "The convicts could be proven legally innocent on a mere technicality, but that does not mean they are morally innocent."

Going back to the issue of the length of time that lapsed (four years) after the crime was committed and before the suspects were apprehended and prosecuted, I would like to say that I now see the importance of keeping a record of our whereabouts. I am not obsessive-compulsive and do not

keep a daily journal, but I do keep a pocket calendar-planner where I write appointments, trips and events I need to attend. The calendar-planners I have kept date back to as far as the 1980s.

In the small compartment near the driver's seat of my car, I keep two pencils (ball pens dry up in the heat) and a note pad so that I can quickly note down numbers and signs as soon as the car stops in traffic. Once while on a bus to Baguio, I witnessed men with long arms drag a driver out of his seat and drive off with the car. I took down the plate number and was aiming with my camera when my companions pulled me down.

What if I would need to prove where I was on a particular day? What if I would need to prove that I saw so-and-so or witnessed something? Or that I heard something being said while walking on the corridor on my way to an interview?

I have actually dug into my old calendar entries to refresh my mind on certain events and actions I have taken in the past. I am not a keeper of little stuff but I now realize that it might be important to keep old passports, airline tickets, boarding and gate passes and even baggage tags. Remember, accused Hubert Webb showed proof of travel (but not his original passport) in order to bolster his alibi that he was in the United States when the crime was committed, proofs that the judge and, later, the Court of Appeals found weak when compared to witness accounts.

Anyway, all that have been overturned in Webb et al.'s favor.

I wonder, will someone someday do a Truman Capote and write a definitive "In Cold Blood" type of work in the "new journalism" true-crime genre? That is, if and when the real criminals are found and found guilty. The 20-year prescription period will soon be over. There are only six months left for the authorities to find them before the case lapses and the blood in this case joins the water under the bridge. Are we back to square one?

Gold finds in PH, then and now

If we are to believe Wikipedia, the Philippines ranks 17th on a world list of gold-producing countries. On another list, without any ranking, the Philippines is one of the world's 98 countries or places where gold has been discovered or produced. That the Philippines produces gold comes as a surprise to many Filipinos who then ask the million-peso question: So why are we so poor? In the 16th century, when men like Magellan and Columbus set out to explore a world unknown to them—and thus East met West—they had trade at the back of their minds. Asia gave Europe spices that preserved and improved the taste of European food. Today spices come cheaply and we have kitchen cupboards with pepper and cinnamon that cost a fortune in the past.

History is not always about great men and women, neither is it always about great events. Nick Joaquin writing half a century ago showed us that there are many voices, many rooms in that long story of our past.

When we read Pigafetta's first-hand account of the Magellan expedition, we catch a glimpse of life in the islands in the 16th century. Although Pigafetta's account did not come with pictures, his words were often good enough. While I was discussing Pigafetta in class many years ago, one student raised her hand and asked, "Was Pigafetta gay?" I was surprised by the comment because I had never thought about the chronicler's sexual preference even if his work is the earliest to describe the sexual practices of our ancestors. To encourage further discussion I replied with a question, "What made you think Pigafetta was gay?" She then pulled out her photocopied reading and focused the class on the paragraph-long description Pigafetta made of a handsome young king and compared it to the few cursory sentences about a woman.

When the class read through the text, I realized that Pigafetta was describing not just the physical

looks of the king but also the gold ornaments he wore on his ears covered by his long, black, straight hair. Then there was the knife with a gold hilt on his waist, and the rings he wore on his fingers and toes. He was bedecked like a Christmas tree. He must have been an impressive and dazzling sight. Gold then as now was a marker of status, wealth and power.

Then Pigafetta said that gold was so plentiful that one simply had to kick the sand to reveal gold nuggets. Everyone knows how hard it is to pan or dig for raw gold. That refined gold nuggets could be found in the sand suggests that the Magellan expedition had come across a grave, and the gold found there was the "pabaon." The word "baon" here having a double meaning, as in something you bring on a journey or something interred under the ground. Pigafetta did not mention it, but we can be sure there was looting of graves, and this contributed to the anger that led to the slaughter in Mactan in 1521.

In 1565 when Legazpi established the first Spanish settlement in Cebu, he tried to put grave robbers out of business—not out of respect for the dead but to secure the King's share in all the treasures found on the islands. Blair and Robertson translated a document about Legazpi being "informed that many Spanish soldiers and sailors have opened many graves and burial-places of the native Indians in this island, wherein a quantity of gold and other jewels has been found; and inasmuch as those opening these graves and finding the said gold have not made a report thereof to His Excellency nor to His Majesty's officials, in order that His Majesty may receive and take his royal fifths and rights; therefore he ordered ... that all who have opened any graves



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

whence they have abstracted gold, jewels and other valuables, and those who have in their possession gold and jewels of these islands, however they may have been obtained, shall appear and make full declaration regarding such things before his majesty's officials, under penalty that whoever shall act contrary to this order shall, besides losing all the gold and other valuables thus obtained and abstracted, be proceeded against in due form of law."

Furthermore, he ordered that, "from this time henceforth, no grave or burial-place be opened without the permission of His Excellency, in order that there might be present at this opening one of the king's officials, or myself, the above-mentioned notary, so that no fraud or deceit may occur, and so that an account and memorandum may be taken of everything under penalty of five hundred pesos de minas and of returning all that was taken from such grave or burial-place, together with the fifth over and above this for his majesty's exchequer and treasury."

Recently, pre-Spanish Philippine gold was excavated by National Museum archeologists, in cooperation with University of San Carlos anthropologists led by Jojo Bersales, in Plaza Independencia in downtown Cebu and on the grounds of Boljoon church also in Cebu. The findings are slim but significant because, often, other important data have been disturbed by treasure hunters. In 1565, Legazpi demanded a declaration of excavated gold; today excavated treasure must be declared to the National Museum. Then as now nobody declares gold uncovered in archeological sites, resulting in the loss of significant data and artifacts required in our reconstruction of the pre-Spanish past.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



BRASS BAND

Alaska Brass, the musical group from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, performs in a free concert last Dec. 12 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BALLET STARS

Raissa Macaraig, daughter of Consul General Medardo Macaraig, poses with international ballet stars after their performance of *The Nutcracker* at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater last Dec. 11.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Advance happy birthday to Lola Baby Baguino, who will be celebrating her special day on Dec. 19, 2010! Welcome back to the island! We wish you all the luck and happiness throughout the year! May you have many, many more birthdays to come! God bless! Love, Queen Anne, Daphne Rylee, Keeno, and Louis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Advance happy birthday to Ann Lorelei Pacson, who is celebrating her special day on Dec. 19, 2010! We wish you all the best throughout the whole year! Many more birthdays to come and God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Pia and may you have many more birthdays to come. Hope you enjoy your special day, God bless. We love you! Greetings come from Kae-DoMel, Glory, Nia Lei, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy 31st birthday to Juanito Montano Jr., who is celebrating his special day on Dec. 19, 2010! Greetings coming from Ate Jengjeng, Jemo, Jerome, and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GREEN ENERGY EXPERTS

Visiting experts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory meet with local officials on Dec. 9 in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



REPUBLICANS ALL

From left, Senate President Paul Manglona, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), standing, and House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) wait for other lawmakers before starting a meeting in the Senate president's room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. They are among those who oppose a proposal by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and others to merge the Republican and Covenant Party.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



NEW RADIO STATION

Rosemond Santos, right, president of Blue Continent Communications which owns KKMP 92.1FM and 1440AM, with her husband Gary Sword who is company vice president, and on-air host "Mama Lulu" Lucy Selepeo inside their new "red" main studio on the second floor of the Liberty Store building in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



PARENTS' SUMMIT

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan explains to parents the importance of parental involvement in securing funds from the federal government. Along with Jack Diaz, Sablan educated participants about the requirements of Title I during this week's parents' summit at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Palau President Johnson Toribiong receives the chairmanship from CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at the beginning of the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Koror, Palau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW CHRISTIAN

Congratulations on the christening of Donalyn U. Santiago, our sweet and cute baby. Greetings coming from family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



YoungStyle

Gift Guide: Techie kids' toys for every age group

By DANA WOLLMAN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—While stores still sell a plethora of good old-fashioned toys such as board games, action figures and stuffed animals, electronic ones aren't exactly a niche category anymore either.

And fortunately for parents, the selection has grown beyond video games and noisy radio-controlled cars to include educational e-readers, musical instruments and interactive robots.

Whatever your kid's age or personality, here's a short list of toys we think are worthwhile.

For the gamer:

Today's children probably won't remember Simon, the game in which players memorize an increasingly complex pattern of flashing red, green, yellow and blue lights.

Mattel Inc.'s electronic memory game Loopz (\$30, ages 7 and up) is a loose remake of the classic. It invites players to follow music and light cues and then wave their hands over one of four areas to replicate the pattern - the modern-day equivalent of smacking a color-coded button.

Wordy kids will enjoy Hasbro Inc.'s Scrabble Flash (\$30, ages 8 and up), an electronic game that actually resembles Boggle more than it does Scrabble. The game includes five cubes with digital screens, each of which displays a letter. Players rearrange the cubes, clicking them together to form as many words as they can in the allotted time.

For the spy:

Children have long pretended to be playground secret agents, but over time their spy tools have grown more sophisticated. Jakks Pacific Inc.'s SpyNet Secret Mission Video Watch (\$50, ages 8 and up) records audio, video and photos. Budding spies can play back video on the watch's 1.4-inch screen or upload it to the family computer.

The company also sells the Net Flex Snake Camera (\$30), which sits in one place and beams live video of passersby to the spy watch. Other

accessories include night vision binoculars (\$50) and a recording pen (\$20).

And while radio-controlled cars make for noisy gifts, Wild Planet's Spy Video Trakr (\$130) records audio and video and is decidedly cool.

Even Barbie can go into stealth mode. Mattel's Video Girl Barbie (\$50, ages 6 and up) has a hidden camera that records movies from Barbie's point of view. Kids can watch the movies on the doll's small screen or upload them to a Mac or PC and then use Mattel's software to add music, graphics and special effects.

For the musician:

The video game "Rock Band" isn't the only way for kids to live their rock star fantasies. ThinkGeek Inc.'s Electronic Rock Guitar Shirt (\$29.99) looks like a plain black T-shirt with a picture of a guitar on it. (There's also a drum kit version.)

In fact, each of the buttons on the guitar's neck corresponds to a different pre-recorded chord, which kids can play using a magnetic guitar pick that comes with the shirt. The shirt also comes with a clip-on amp and tone knob so that they can play their music louder as well as adjust the sound.

Parents can remove the electronic components, including its AA batteries, before tossing the shirt in the wash. It comes in children's sizes small through large, which should fit kids ages 6 to 16.

For the bookworm:

If Apple Inc.'s iPad and Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle are god-sends for grown-ups on the go, these e-readers will keep young children entertained in the backseat.

Fisher-Price's IXL 6-in-1 Learning System (\$90, ages 3-7) opens like a book to reveal a touch screen. Kids can draw on it, play games, practice writing, read books and listen to a music sampler. The books are sold separately through Fisher-Price, a unit of Mattel.

VTech's V.Reader Animated E-Book System (\$70, ages 3-7) costs less and has a particularly durable, rubber-coated design. It only offers reading games, though, and has a full on-screen key-

board, which might pose a challenge to young children because it uses the QWERTY layout more familiar to adults.

LeapFrog's Leapster Explorer (\$70, ages 4-9) skews slightly older with a design that looks like a handheld gaming system. Indeed, it uses games to teach kids reading, math, geography, science and music. The Explorer also has a camera for taking photos and recording video.

For the robot-lover:

As far as toys go, 2010 is the year of robots, with animatronic friends taking the form of everything from astronauts to sanitation trucks.

We have a soft spot for Mattel's Prehistoric Pets Cruncher Interactive Dinosaur (\$100, ages 6 and up), a small battery-operated dinosaur whose facial expressions and mean dancing abilities make him more endearing than most.

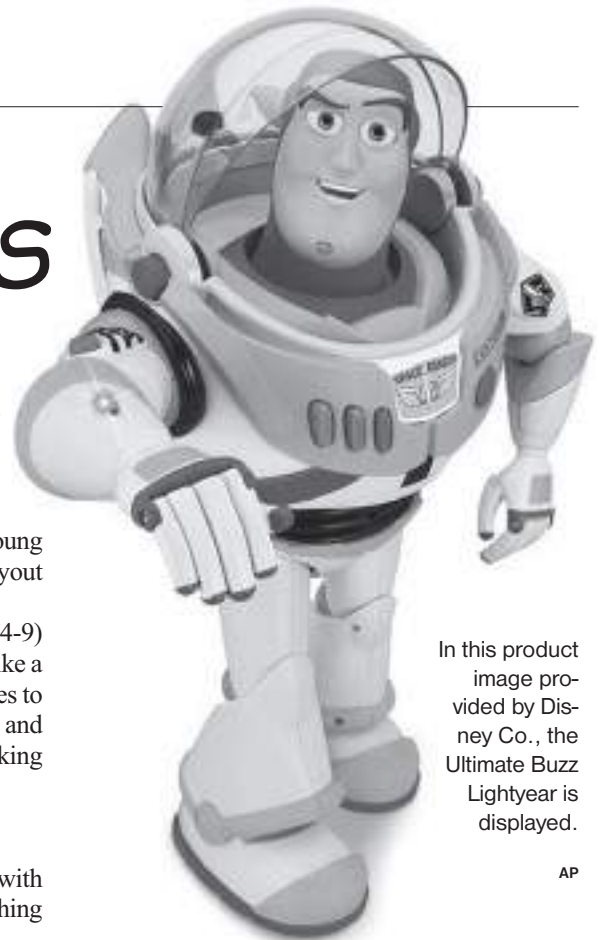
The little guy comes when you call his name and plays fetch using an included chew toy. All told, he can be trained to remember up to 30 actions and sounds, and is programmed to make 200 sounds and movements.

Meanwhile, Imaginext's Bigfoot the Monster (\$100, ages 3-8) pounds his chest, throws things and moves his shoulders, elbows, hips and eyebrows with puppet-like charm.

Bigfoot comes pre-loaded with more than 30 phrases and noises and can be controlled by a remote control whose buttons correspond to different emotions he can express. However, kids can also forego the remote control and do such things as scratch his belly to tickle him.

Fans of this year's "Toy Story 3" will recognize Ultimate Buzz Lightyear (\$150, ages 8 and up), the walking, talking astronaut who believes he's crash-landed on a strange planet.

Buzz has more than 100 sayings and is fluent in both English and Spanish. He responds to a handful of phrases, including his own catchphrase "To infinity and beyond!" Buzz can also shoot "lasers" from his arms and change his behavior when you repeat the phrase, "You're a toy." It comes with a remote control with a 20-foot range.



In this product image provided by Disney Co., the Ultimate Buzz Lightyear is displayed.

AP

Designed for younger children, Matchbox's Stinky the Garbage Truck (\$60, ages 3 and up) can stand on his hind wheels as well as sing and talk with the help of more than 90 built-in phrases. Kids can do things such as touch his head to make him shake it from side to side. Sometimes, he'll even demand food.

Cheap thrills:

Innovation First Inc.'s Hexbug Nano's (\$8 each, ages 3 and up) make for cute, inexpensive gifts. These robotic bugs come in an assortment of colors and can fit inside a child's hand.

They move using vibrating technology, flipping onto their backs by themselves and finding their way through optional "habitats," or holding pens that include raceways and bridges (starting at \$13, sold separately). Kids can register individual bugs online to unlock games.

MechRC's Dave the Funky Monkey (\$30, ages 3 and up) is one of the most adorable robots around, and it costs just a fraction of what many others do. Available only at Toys R Us, this small, furry puppet is meant to be worn on, say, a shoulder or a backpack and is controlled by a remote control designed to be hidden inside a pocket.

He chatters and flails using 16 pre-programmed actions and sounds, and his eyes move. The designers also made other body parts interactive but won't say what they are, as they hope kids will discover them through play.

Frugal parents skip stores for online toy swaps

By ELLEN GIBSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephanie Edwards-Musa finished her Christmas shopping early this year. Her 13-year-old daughter is getting a PlayStation 2 and clothing from Hollister and Aeropostale. For her 5-year-old son, it's a bundle of toys, mostly "Star Wars"-themed.

The bill? \$45.

Edwards-Musa, a Houston Realtor, found these items used on ThredUp.com, an online toy exchange that launched last week. Parent-to-parent swapping sites like this one, growing in popularity, offer families a way to clear their closets of toys and clothes their children have outgrown in exchange for items cast off by older kids.

"I've always been frugal," she said, "but the PlayStation was my best Friday doorbuster yet."

Thrifty parents are finding plenty of places to barter on the Web. At the online community SwapMamas.com, hip moms trade goods from baby slings to clarinets without any money changing hands. Swap-seekers place hundreds of listings a day on classifieds service Craigslist.

org, while parents just looking for freebies gravitate to the local forums on Freecycle.org.

ThredUp CEO James Reinhart says the site has benefited from middle-income Americans' heightened frugality; its membership, now at 50,000, has grown steadily since it debuted with clothing only back in April.

The fallout from the recession still has many parents struggling to balance the imperative to spend less with the desire to give their kids the things they want, especially during the holidays.

Even in hard times, "parents still want to do whatever it takes to create magic for their kids on Christmas and give them that pleasure," said toy analyst Chris Byrne—one reason toy sales have held steady over the past few years while other categories fell.

Americans spend more than \$21 billion a year on toys and games, according to market research firm NPD Group, and many of these items end up getting thrown away or stuffed in basements and attics. ThredUp Marketing Manager Karen Fein says the company expects to save parents \$500,000 this holiday season.

Of course, many parents unload their kids'

outgrown goods the old-fashioned—and most eco-friendly—way: by handing them down to friends and family.

Used playthings are not always greener, however. Some product-safety groups caution against buying toys secondhand because it's tough to guarantee the products meet safety standards regarding lead and other chemicals. Also, when a resold toy lacks its original packaging, parents may not recognize whether it's age-appropriate or contains pieces that are choking hazards, said Scott Wolfson, spokesman for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Still, the secondhand market for children's clothes and toys generates \$3 billion in sales annually. ThredUp's investors, led by Silicon Valley's Trinity Ventures, hope the startup can carve out a sizeable chunk.

To facilitate a swap, ThredUp provides a flat-rate shipping box a parent can fill with giveaways. The donor lists the contents of the box on the site, where the bundles are organized by age and gender. To claim a box, a user pays \$5 to ThredUp plus \$10.70 for shipping, and ThredUp e-mails the sender a prepaid shipping label.

Members rate each other based on the quality of the stuff they receive.

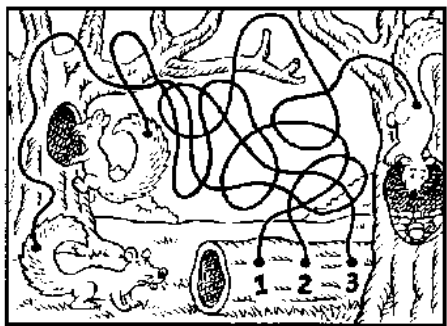
The emphasis on convenience is a response to what Reinhart sees as "massive inefficiencies" in the used-clothing market. Parents are too busy to spend time "digging through the racks for those diamonds in the rough at Goodwill," he said.

Jill Snowden, a mother in Contra Costa County, Calif., was never big on consignment shops. When she started noticing discarded baby paraphernalia piling up in her home, she searched the Web for a way to de-clutter.

"I listed a bunch of boxes and when they started getting picked and getting good reviews, I got kind of addicted," Snowden says.

ThredUp users are quick to point out it's not an anonymous marketplace but a community. On the site's Facebook page, members share pictures and make special requests like "any toys with a ladybug theme." For Snowden, a first-time mother, the camaraderie is as enticing as the dirt-cheap stuff.

"I can ask, 'What toys is my baby going to want when she's 2,' and I get a lot of really helpful responses," she said. "These are like-minded people with their own kids, and I trust them."



CAN YOU GUESS which one of these little squirrels remembered where he hid his food in the fall?

Answer: It was squirrel number 3.

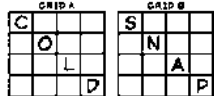
HANDS ACROSS THE SEA! A Londoner would have an easy time with this one. To complete the 11-letter word below, you must add the same three letters to the beginning and to the end. The letters, in both cases, are in the same order.

— — — E R G R O — — —

Answer: The letters are L I N D, and the word is L I N D E R G R O U N D. (In America we call it a subway.)

"CHILL OUT" WITH THIS PROBLEM! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Storage vessels.
2. A seeded field.
3. An absence of motion.
4. Used to move animals.

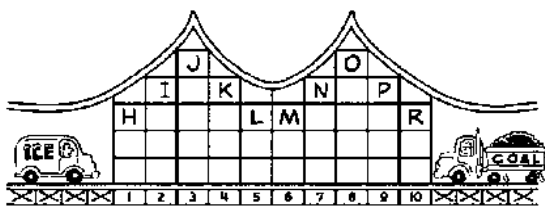


Answers: 1. Cans-can. 2. Snow-snow. 3. Calm-clam. 4. Prod-drop.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE!



The bridge to the left contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus lots of hints.

1. Found on dresses.
2. One who is blindly adored.
3. A children's game.
4. Something you turn or pull.
5. To rent or lease.
6. An animal sound.
7. Central part of a church.
8. An oil or color.
9. A famous bear.
10. A fixed, boring routine.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Answers: 1. Hem 2. Idol 3. Ducks 4. Knob 5. Left 6. Mew 7. Nave 8. Olive 9. Papa 10. Rut

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was prolific British author G.K. Chesterton who gave the following sage bit of advice: "Don't ever take a fence down until you know the reason it was put up."

■ When Richard Nixon first ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives (which he won in 1946), he funded his campaign largely with money he won playing poker while serving as a lieutenant commander in the Navy during World War II.

■ From 1863 until 1945, the city of Vicksburg, Miss., didn't celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. This is because during the Civil War, the Confederate city was surrendered to Union forces on that day, an event that was considered to be one of the turning points of the war.

■ It was once thought that when snakes went through their version of hibernation they rejuvenated themselves, and therefore that serpents lived forever.

■ There's talk everywhere these days about the growing problem posed by the fact that people in the U.S. are becoming more and more overweight. Interestingly, when the International Journal of Obesity was first published, in 1993, it was 509 pages long; the 2006 edition totaled 2,322 pages. Coincidence?

■ It was one Dr. Spencer Silver, a chemist, who invented the adhesive used today in Post-it notes, but he had no luck promoting his invention. Six years later, one of his colleagues, Art Fry, came up with a use for it that stuck (so to speak). While sitting in church one day, Fry's attention wandered from the sermon to the scraps of paper he used to mark his place in the hymnal, which kept falling out. Connecting his annoying problem and his friend's invention, the Post-it was born.

Thought for the Day: "Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted."—Martin Luther King Jr.

(c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE • NAMES PAINTED ON WWII BOMBERS

V Y V S F P M J H E B Y V T Q
O L I G L D M K B Y W T R L P
M K I F A Y C O D B Y W A U N
S Q O M K E P K M I F D Z D A
B Z X R H W P E U R Y S I L W
Q O A C A N L T N B A J L H S
F P D D C Q U E E N I E A C K
S A X A K Y W T V E Y T D S C
B P A T S A H S Q O W P I N A
L P M K E I N N O B I S H F L
E Y C B Z R E P M U H T Y W B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Alley Oop Dear Mom Max Sparky
Bad Check Flak Hack Pappy Sweet Pea
Black Swan Idaliza Queenie Thumper
Bonnie Lady Beth Shasta

© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

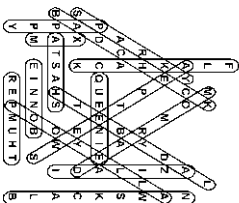
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	—		x		25
÷		x		÷	
	x		—		17
+		+		x	
	+		x		28
10		28		20	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



NAMES PAINTED ON WWII BOMBERS

GO FIGURE ANSWER

20	28	10
8	7	1
x	+	+
17	1	6
÷	x	÷
25	5	3
	—	8

Trimming around dog's ears

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can I trim the hair around my dog's ears? Should I?—Donny J., Oshkosh, Wis.

DEAR DONNY: It depends. You should inspect your dog's ears regularly (daily if time permits; weekly for sure) to see if hair is blocking the ear canal, and that the ear is clean, free of really bad odor and without excess wax. (If you're not sure how to inspect your dog's ears, your veterinarian can walk you through the process.)

Some pet experts recommend that the hair growing close to or in the ear canal be trimmed or plucked, but if your dog is healthy and has no ear problems, I see no reason to do this.

Quite a few breeds do have frequent problems with their ears, and long hair can worsen the issue. If your dog has excessive hair at the entrance to the ear canal that's worsening wax buildup, you can remove this on an as-needed basis.

Holding your dog securely (small dogs on your lap, big dogs on a stable surface with your arm around their neck), gently fold back your dog's ear. Inspect and clean the ear using a cleaning solution available at the pet store (or plain water in a pinch) and cotton balls.

Important: Do not stick anything—fingers, Q-tips, trimmers, etc.—into the ear canal past where you can see it!

If hair near the opening of the ear ca-



nal is excessive and impacting airflow into the ear, carefully trim away with blunt-tipped scissors or pluck a bit at a time with tweezers or your fingers.

Dogs are generally not thrilled with ear cleaning or trimming, anymore than they're happy with tooth brushing or baths. If you're unable to safely inspect and clean your dog's ears (you don't want him thrashing around with trimmers in use), contact your veterinarian to schedule an exam.

■ ■ ■

Get more pet advice and information at www.pawscorner.com. Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

(c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

Citrus and spice add festive scent

Fill your home with the festive scent of citrus and spice to add to the sights, sounds and tastes of your special way of celebrating the holidays. Decorating colorful, fresh citrus fruit with whole cloves will bring natural scents of the season to the project and for days to come.

You might recognize this simple, traditional craft idea from your childhood, which is reason enough to pass it along to your school-age kids. So, gather your children, cousins and friends around the kitchen table, and enjoy passing along a fun holiday multi-generational tradition.

Here's the stuff:

- Fresh, firm citrus fruit such as oranges, clementines, lemons and limes
- Whole cloves
- Ribbon in holiday colors
- Pencil
- Bamboo skewer or knitting needle
- Cinnamon sticks (optional)

Here's the fun:

Use a pencil to draw a simple design on a piece of fruit. Poke evenly spaced holes with the skewer or knitting needle into the peeling. Using the pencil design as your guide, insert cloves into the holes, like a "dot to dot" activity.

Decorate the fruit if you wish by crisscrossing colorful ribbon around it, topping it with a loop to hang in a windowsill, on a wreath or from a Christmas tree.

Here are some design ideas to get you started:

ABC's—Make an alphabet letter on each piece of fruit to form a word when they are lined up next to each other. For example, spell "JOY," "PEACE" or your family name. If you have visitors coming to dinner, make a place card by forming the initial of their name, add a

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson



bow on top and place the fruit on the center of each plate.

Snowman—Stack a small clementine on top of two oranges, and attach together with toothpicks. Use the whole cloves to create a face on the top clementine and to represent buttons on the center orange. Tie a ribbon for a scarf and attach sticks for arms, if you wish.

Extra tip: Bundle cinnamon sticks and tie with ribbon. Add to a bowl of your decorated fruit for an eye-catching table decoration.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2010 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

The Friendship Villa of the Shenyang Aerospace University, which houses foreign teachers and students on the top two floors. Inset is our trekker before the University motto translated in the trekker's Chinglish as "Combining firmly morals and competence to soar and advance courageously always."

Dong Bei Trek: Summing up

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



A Journey is more than the sum of its parts. At least, that's how our recent trek through Dong Bei comes across as we

give it a closure. *De Neng Bin Jin Yong Yi Xiang Yuan* (inset) welcomes folks who enter the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in Liaoning, recent site of our guest lecturing on development economics, and possibly our host come March (residence on the top floor of the Friendship Villa, office on the sixth) to engage English speaking students from 17 developing nations on the subject of macroeconomics (*Hong guan jing ji xui*). Chinese students learning English will be part of the audience to improve on their listening, speaking, and writing skills, even as I write the Pinyin of the Putunghua, not to parade any proficiency in the language (have none) but to get familiar with the words myself. Pronouncing each syllable with one out of four tones remains a challenge.

The sign literally means: *de* –

morals and virtue; *neng* – ability and competence; *bin* – together, combine, merge; *jin* – forge and advance; *yong* – brave and courage; *yi* – firm and resolute; *xiang* – soar; and *yuan* – always and forever. Our best Chinglish equivalent would be: "Combining firmly morals and competence to soar and advance courageously always." We had gone over Manchuria to brave the cold, even venturing into the Amur River that borders China and Russia until we discovered going across was not just a matter of presenting a blue passport with the eagle seal. It was just as well because the blizzard that caught us from Siberia and Neimongol (Inner Mongolia) was not something the timber of my resolve in my 30s amidst Saskatchewan winter winds equaled. Since this was a reflective trek rather than gawking tourism, our learnings are many, some horrendously unsettling. We begin with the objective level. Bouts of blurry sight, parched throat and muscle numbness, familiar to diabetes patients, have accompanied our time in the cold. We are now acutely aware that three scores and a quarter of years of the flexibility of physique has paid a heavy toll. A couple of miles around a park now tax the stamina of the calf and leg, and our footing on icy surface is a dance of slip-sliding away. With the varied gastronomic delights in China, however, we are glad of the sensitivity of our taste buds and the re-

See DONG BEI on next page

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Pedro Tudela
Better known as "Pete/Dung"

Born on July 21, 1963, Peacefully joined his creator on December 13, 2010 at the age of 47.

In his new life, Pedro now joins his:

- Mother: Margarita T. Tereyama
Step-Father: Antonio T. Tereyama
Grandparents: Pedro Muna Tudela
Rufina Pangelinan Manibusan Tudela
Brothers: Ramon Tudela "Bo"
John Tudela
Sister: Antonia Tudela
Aunties: Anotinia T. Matsunaga
Victorina M. Tudela

Pedro's loving memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

- Wife: Elvie Del Rosario Tudela
Children: Betsy Castro/Clifford K. Norita and Children
Kimberly Del Rosario Tudela
Patrick Del Rosario Tudela
Rizza Madrideo/Alex Escobar and Children
Sisters/Brothers/In-laws: Rufina Tudela and Children
Teresa T. and Merbin Zapanta
Joseph T. Tereyama
Richard T. Tereyama
Jesse T. Tereyama
Jesselyn T. Tereyama
Aunties/Spouse: Mariana T. Lizama & Jose R. Lizama (Children)
Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero & Herman M. Deleon Guerrero (Children)
Meling T. & Juan M. Aldan (Children)
God Parents: † Esteban E. Ayuyu
Bernadita T. Nelson
Herman M. Deleon Guerrero

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary. On December 16-20, 2010 Mass will be at 5:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary at 6:00 p.m.

On the final day, Tuesday, December 21, 2010, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to San Vicente Church at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
THE FAMILY

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We, the family and friends of the late

Camilo Laoeng
Better known as "Pader"

Would like to thank all who contributed financially, gave their material support, showed compassion, and attended the nightly rosaries for the repose of the soul of our beloved Camilo.

We will always remember you in our hearts. Your thoughtful prayers and unconditional support during the times we needed most will always be remembered.

Thank you and Maraming Salamat po.
Laoeng Family and Friends

Cannon says his wife Mariah Carey is having twins

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariah Carey is going to be a mom twice over.

Nick Cannon announced on his radio show Thursday that his wife is expecting twins.

Said Cannon on New York's 92.3 station: "I haven't even told my wife I doing this so I'm probably gonna get yelled at for not getting permission. ... We are having twins!"

Mariah Carey's publicist Cindi Berger confirmed the

news as well.

Cannon said two VIPs did get the scoop: President Barack Obama and wife Michelle. Carey told the first couple during a taping of a "Christmas in Washington" show.

Cannon added: "Both babies are healthy, in tiptop shape."

Carey, 40, and Cannon, 30, have been the subject of a baby watch since they got married after a whirlwind romance two years ago.

CNN's Larry King exits after 25 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Marking the occasion with bright red suspenders, Larry King pulled the curtain down on his CNN talk show on Thursday after 25 years.

King, 77, said this summer he would leave. Once the dominant voice on cable television news, King has faded in a sea of sharp talkers. British talk-show host and "America's Got Talent" judge Piers Morgan takes over the 9 p.m. Eastern time slot in January.

"Good evening, and welcome to the last 'Larry King Live,'" he said as the show opened Thursday. "It's hard to say that. I knew this day was coming. These words are not easy to say."

He was joined at his table by Ryan Seacrest and Bill Maher,

who have both filled in for King during breaks in the past. The first guest, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, declared it "Larry King Day" in his state and thanked King for doing his show from Los Angeles.

Maher tried not to let the show quickly become maudlin.

"This is not Larry's funeral," he said. "He's hopefully going to be in our living rooms for a lot of years to come. This is the end of a show, not the end of a man."

King has conducted some 50,000 interviews in a broadcasting career where he worked for decades in radio before joining CNN in 1985. He's recorded more than 6,000 shows for CNN.



AP
Singer Mariah Carey performs during the Annual Christmas in Washington presentation at the National Building Museum in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010.

Girl feels like hanging up when boy calls to hang out

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior in high school and I have a problem. I'm in a parasitic relationship. A boy at my school, "Dan," believes himself to be my best friend. It is sad because everyone acts as if he is invisible. I noticed that he was an outcast and went out of my way to be kind to him. He latched onto me and now follows me around at school.



I have a boyfriend who is really concerned, but neither of us knows how to approach this.

Dan calls me at home and always asks if we can hang out "as friends." (I keep coming up with excuses to avoid it.) Dan is a nice guy, but this has been going on for two years and his attachment has only increased. I have no idea how to let him know our "friendship" has become too suffocating for me. Please help.

Dear Abby

OVERWHELMED IN OHIO

DEAR OVERWHELMED: Because he has been excluded by everyone else at school, it's not surprising that Dan is emotionally dependent on you. However, you have a boyfriend, your studies and a social life, and you need to explain that to Dan when he asks to "hang out." Those aren't excuses; they are facts. Say it kindly but firmly, and do not be defensive. If he persists, talk to a counselor at school.

In a few months high school will be over and Dan can move on and start building a life. Many successful adults weren't popular in high school. Perhaps when he thinks back, Dan will remember you as the one bright spot in a miserable experience.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I was a little girl, my family's idea of celebrating Christmas was opening some presents and renting a movie. I'm 15 now, and my parents barely acknowledge the holiday.

Last year on Christmas Day, my mother slept until after noon, then handed me \$100. Dad did the same. I was grateful for the money, but a little hurt that they put no effort into buying gifts.

I am tired of trying to think up thoughtful gifts while all I get is a check handed to me without so much as a "Merry Christmas." Would I sound ungrateful if I asked my parents to put a little more thought into celebrating the holidays this year?

NOT SO JOLLY CHRISTMAS

DEAR NOT SO JOLLY: Yes, you would. You might get a better result if you simply told your parents that you miss celebrating the holidays with them the way you have in the past, and ask them why things have changed. I'm sure you will find their answer to be enlightening.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I know the holidays can be a stressful time of year—and even more so when there has been a death in someone's family.

When a friend or family member loses a loved one, such as a child or close friend, what is the proper etiquette regarding gifts you may have sent or have sitting under the tree? What should the bereaved family do with the gifts? I must admit, I am curious—especially being a member of the armed forces.

MARIE IN CANADA

DEAR MARIE: If you are asking whether the gift(s) should be returned to the sender, I am sure the grieving family (or close friend) will have other things to think about that take precedence. Once a gift is sent, it should be up to the surviving relatives to decide whether to keep it or dispose of it—whether by donating it, selling it or returning it to the sender.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Queen of Soul tells Jet: Details of illness coming

DETROIT (AP)—Music legend Aretha Franklin tells Jet magazine that she soon will reveal what prompted her recent surgery at a Detroit hospital. Franklin told the magazine that friends know she is "a lot more than the girl in the pink Cadillac on the Freeway of Love who also sings about Respect" and that they have prayed for her "without ceasing." The 68-year-old Queen of Soul underwent an undisclosed surgical procedure earlier this month. Franklin already had canceled concert dates and personal appearances through May. Franklin said in a statement Wednesday that she had been home from the hospital for three days and that she has a private nurse. She tells Jet she's "putting Aretha together first," and that doctors have ordered eight weeks of rest.

'40-Year-Old Virgin' actor gets life in stabbing

VISTA, Calif. (AP)—An actor who appeared in the film "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" was sentenced Thursday to life in prison with possible parole in 12 years for stabbing his ex-girlfriend more than 20 times when he stopped by her home unannounced and found her with another man. Shelley Malil was sentenced by San Diego

County Superior Court Judge Harry Elias three months after a jury convicted the actor of attempted premeditated murder and assault with a deadly weapon. The victim, Kendra Beebe, suffered punctured lungs and wounds to her neck, chest, back and arms in the 2008 attack. Seated before the court, Malil apologized for stabbing Beebe and said he wanted to go to prison.

Rumer Willis poses for star-heavy Badgley Mischka

NEW YORK (AP)—Rumer Willis, the eldest daughter of Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, is turning her years growing up in front of the camera into career experience: Fashion house Badgley Mischka is choosing her as its newest spokesmodel. Parent company Iconix Brand Group said Thursday that the 22-year-old will star in the spring ad campaigns for the high-end Badgley Mischka collection, the contemporary Mark & James label, footwear, handbags and swimwear. Willis is known for an edgy style. Designers Mark Badgley and James Mischka describe her as "glamorous, youthful and fun." Previous models for the celebrity-heavy brand include Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, Sharon Stone and Eva Longoria.

sponsiveness of our olfactory sense to the numerous *pe juo*, *bai juo* and *hu juo* (beer, liquor and wine) liquid offerings from the fruit of the vine.

Our sympathetic state is surprisingly broad and accommodating. Even a 12-hour train ride with everyone's duffle bag everywhere and aisles overflowing with standing customers did not faze our genial stance to our host culture. In fact, the constant surprise and unfamiliarity over people, terrain and services only heightened our sense of adventure and reinforced our perpetual state of awe and wonder. The self was conscious of itself in the midst of other selves, without feeling the need to be recognized, be affirmed and accepted, nor accomplish deeds that merit recognition. Our ego took a back seat behind our overwhelming

experience of humility, gratitude and compassion.

Our intellect was challenged at every turn. The foreignness of language and the newness of the symbol system present in public dances and impromptu communal bands, the towering *pagotas* exuding tranquility and the mirrored bridges on serene pond waters, pointed to equanimous oases in the noise and bustle of urban ambience. Even the University Friendship Villa, a structure more akin to the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas than home to the Taoist tradition, housing the foreign teachers and students, became home with the assault of the odorous admixture of Korean *kimchi* and fried Bengali dried fish.

Our inner resolve and historic disciplines of chastity (single-

mindedness), poverty (detachment), and obedience (engagement) served us well; the art in our external practices of meditation (unconditional acceptance of diverse traditions), contemplation (recognizing symbiotic relationship with all of creation) and prayer (resolve to hand our body over the significant barbed wires of history) were sufficient to keep our spirit on even keel. Embracing our knowing (boundless), doing (limited), and being (response-able) made the trek as much a journey in geography as a sojourn of the soul.

Being in the old stomping ground of Kogoryo of the Jeoson dynasty at a time when *Chosun Koryo* and *Hangul Koryo* of the Korean peninsula were exchanging trajectories over Yeonpyeong Island gave us the razor edge of contempo-

rary relevance that also revealed the climate of fear abiding in friends' political demeanor who immediately emailed us to get out of the region before a shooting war erupted.

On our consciousness of this journey into self, China, Russia, Manchuria and Saipan, this Sanskrit proverb was eminently appropriate for our daily recall: "Look well to each day, for it is life, the very life of life. In it lies all the realities and verities of existence: the bliss of growth, the glory of action, and splendor of beauty. For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow only a vision. But today well-lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day, for it and is alone is life! Such is the salutation of the dawn."

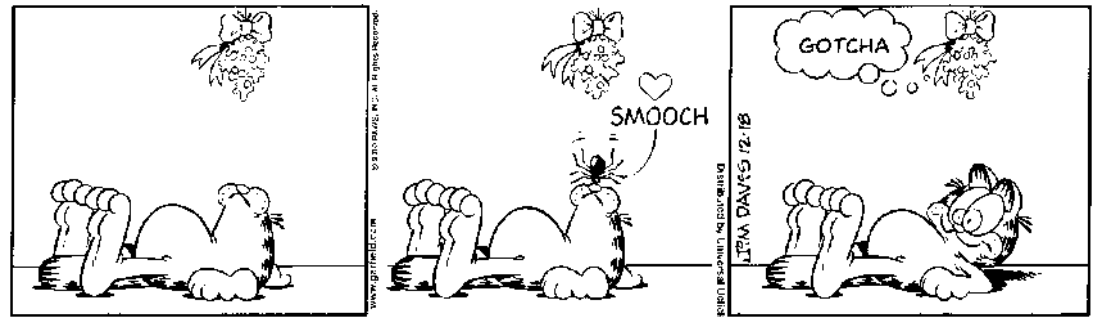
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wrestling style
5 Informal talk
9 Matter-horn, for one
12 Journey
13 Ginormous
14 — canto
15 Look lecherously
16 Shrek is one
17 Id counter-part
18 Lowly worker
19 Shad product
20 Circulate
21 Hot tub
23 Corn spike
25 Reveal
28 Gushed forth
32 Paycheck increase
33 Attack from hiding
34 Collision
36 Jam maker's need

DOWN

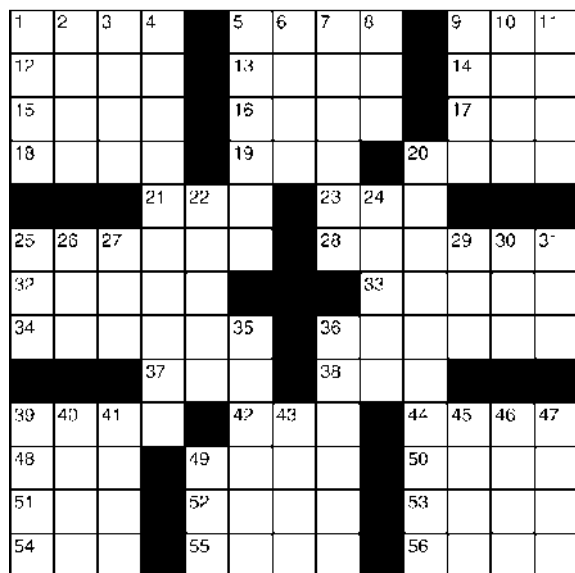
37 Kitten's comment
38 Tray contents
39 Prop for
42 Kreskin's claim
44 Elliptical
48 Kimono closer
49 Erstwhile Peruvian
50 Elite alternative
51 Pre-terminate the outcome
52 Remain
53 Oklahoma city
54 Curvy character

11 Oxen's burden
20 Tennis tourney held in Paris
22 Fragment
24 Church sections
25 Swiss canton
26 War zone, for short
27 Somebody
29 Humor
30 Over (Pref.)
31 Hideaway
35 Score
36 Tropical fruit
39 Skin opening
40 Sacred wading bird
41 Swine
43 Cicatrix
45 Source of veritas
46 Galatea's beloved
47 Word shouted by Jerry Lewis mimics
49 Doctrine

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	G	A	S	O	S	S	E	R	B
A	A	N	N	A	C	I	A	O		
W	I	T	D	R	A	W	A	R	C	O
	H	J	R				D	R	E	A
S	T	O	R	E		P	L	E	A	
	L	U	L		C	R	A	W	B	A
O	R	I		T	C	A	D		S	H
B	A	C	K	B	O	N	E		S	T
M	O	L	A	R		G	I	S	T	
A	M	O	K		B	O	N	E	H	E
T	E	R			R	E	A	R	L	E
F	N	D	S		A	R	T		Y	F

Yesterday's answer 12-18



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Christina Aguilera, 30; Katie Holmes, 32; Brad Pitt, 47; Steven Spielberg, 64

Happy Birthday: Travel, learning and getting to know your friends and neighbors better should be your goal. Greater interaction in your community will position you better for advancement. Rethink your strategy to determine if it still fits your lifestyle and the new goals you are setting. Self- and home-improvements will pay off. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 24, 33, 35, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let change throw you off your game. Listen to what's being said but don't take it to heart. Use your past experience to carry you through any problems you face. Your stamina and intuition are strong. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share thoughts and be affectionate with the ones you love. Short trips or attending a social gathering will remind you what life is all about. The more you reveal about your feelings, the deeper your relationships with others will grow. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a commitment to someone you care for. Get serious about taking care of your health and your finances. Thinking you must do something on too big a scale will stand in the way of your progress. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan for the future; there is plenty to consider. Don't make an impulsive move. Weigh all the pros and cons and you will eventually come to the right decision. Love is on the rise. ★★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to help others even if they aren't appreciative. A problem at home will surface if you haven't paid enough attention to your family or lover. Overspending, overindulging and overdoing will all be met with complaints. ★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be faced with unexpected personal or partnership changes. Keep a poker face and go about your business. Remaining calm and not taking action will save the day. A good friend will help you see through any manipulation you face. ★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a breather from the people you are usually with. You need a little "me" time. Don't let someone you love talk you into spending on something you don't want or putting money into an investment you know little about. ★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be entertaining and will draw interest and attention to your ideas and plans for the future. Your mysterious way of presenting what you have to offer will intrigue someone who has plenty to offer in return. Love is in the stars. ★★



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be feeling the need to move on but, if you jump too quickly, you will lose out financially. Someone you care for will find time to give you something special that will help you get through any troubled times you face. ★★



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend more time at home with family and friends. Making inquiries about

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



property that interests you will pay off. Someone from your past will surprise you. Be careful not to fall into an old trap. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will be hard to control when you are around people you feel are judging you. Don't let on how you feel. You should do what you can to help someone who honestly needs your assistance and understands your needs. Don't put up with emotional blackmail. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't make a decision that will affect your job or your personal status. Keeping secrets will pay off. A greater interest in someone who can complement you professionally or personally will develop, but that doesn't mean you should share your intentions. ★★

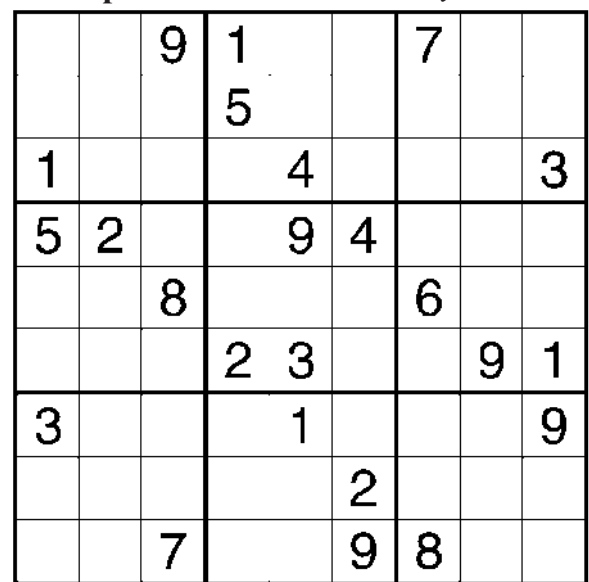
Birthday Baby: You are grounded, you learn from experience and you are astute and ambitious. You leave nothing to chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

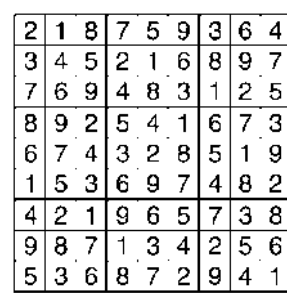


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters are in the Wordword.

SECOND AVENUE BELL, NYC

Solution: 8 letters



© 2010 Universal Uclick. www.wonderword.com. For use on all books. 12/8

Authentic, Bean, Brisket, Cater, Cherry, Chopent, Classic, Coleslaw, Cook, Corn, Cream, Crowd, Dine, Family, Firest, Gefilte, Golden Oldies, Kishke, Knishes, Kosher, Laen, Liver, Manhattan, Matzah Ball, Meaty, Onion, Owned, Pick, Palor, Portion, Poster, Potato Pancake, Salad, Shabbat, Smoked, Sorg, Soup, Stars, Success, Taste, Theater, Tuna, Turkey

Yesterday's Answer: Houdini

© 2010 THE COLLEGE HONORARY. NO PARTS OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM.

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



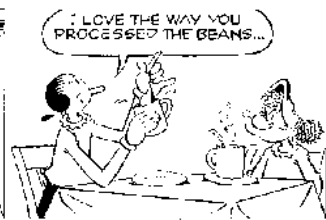
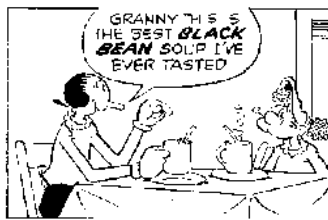
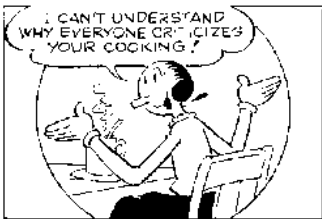
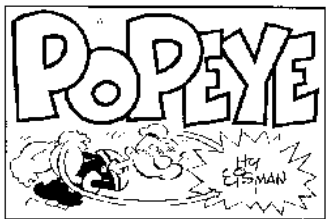
Differences: 1. The case is different. 2. Shoes are black. 3. The shirt is white. 4. No snow in shoe. 5. Tree is gone. 6. More bricks on house.

Wishing Well®

7	4	5	2	8	3	4	7	2	8	3	4	8
C	L	A	P	T	D	I	H	R	H	I	F	I
3	7	5	8	2	5	7	3	2	6	3	2	5
S	O	N	N	O	E	O	C	F	J	O	O	X
4	2	6	2	6	7	4	2	3	2	8	6	4
E	U	O	N	Y	S	S	D	U	L	K	F	T
7	2	4	5	3	2	3	2	3	8	6	4	5
E	O	Y	C	N	V	T	E	F	P	R	L	I
7	6	8	3	5	7	6	3	8	6	5	6	4
W	O	O	E	T	I	M	A	S	H	I	J	E
5	8	3	5	4	8	6	4	8	7	4	8	6
N	I	R	G	C	T	D	H	I	S	A	V	M
5	4	8	4	6	7	4	6	5	3	4	7	7
A	N	E	G	O	E	E	R	Y	S	S	L	Y

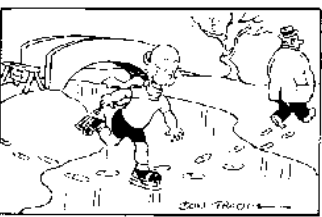
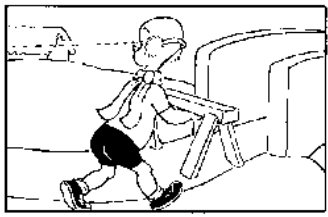
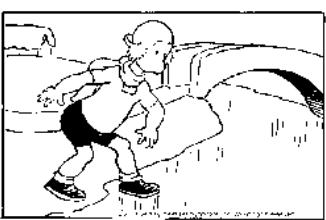
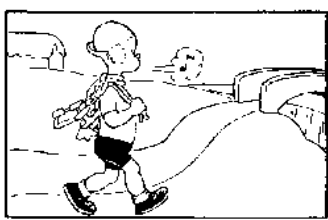
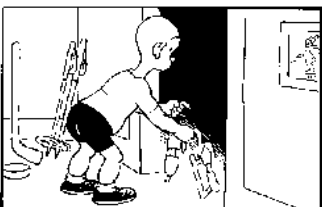
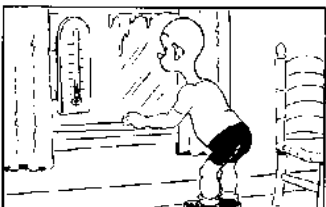
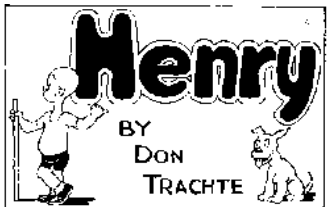
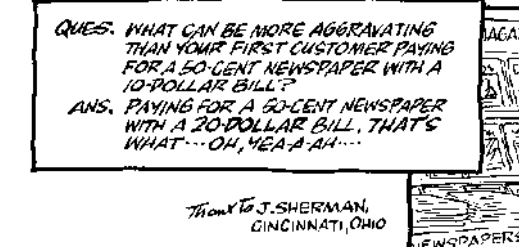
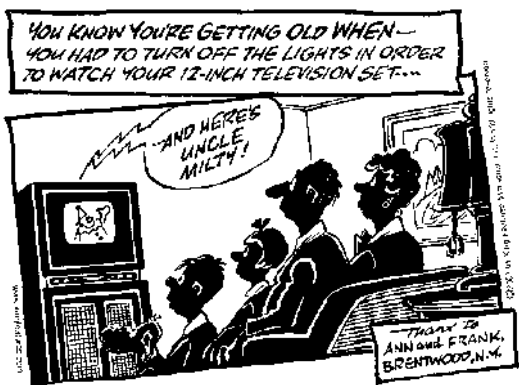
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.



They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

LIQUIDITY

ACROSS

- 1 Still
- 5 Little devils
- 9 Lost a lap
- 14 63 Woody Allen film
- 19 — code
- 20 Year segment
- 21 Dodge
- 22 Beethoven dedicatee
- 23 Melanie Griffith movie
- 25 W. Somerset Maugham work
- 27 Check recipient
- 28 Marge in the fridge
- 30 Improvisario Hurok
- 31 "Mal de —"
- 32 More than
- 34 Author
- 38 Dick Tracy's love
- 41 Laura Esquivel novel
- 50 Southern st.
- 51 Green bean
- 52 Artist Joan
- 53 Arrives
- 54 Most painful
- 57 Drivers' licenses, e.g.
- 59 Bando of baseball
- 60 Yarn purchases
- 61 — drum

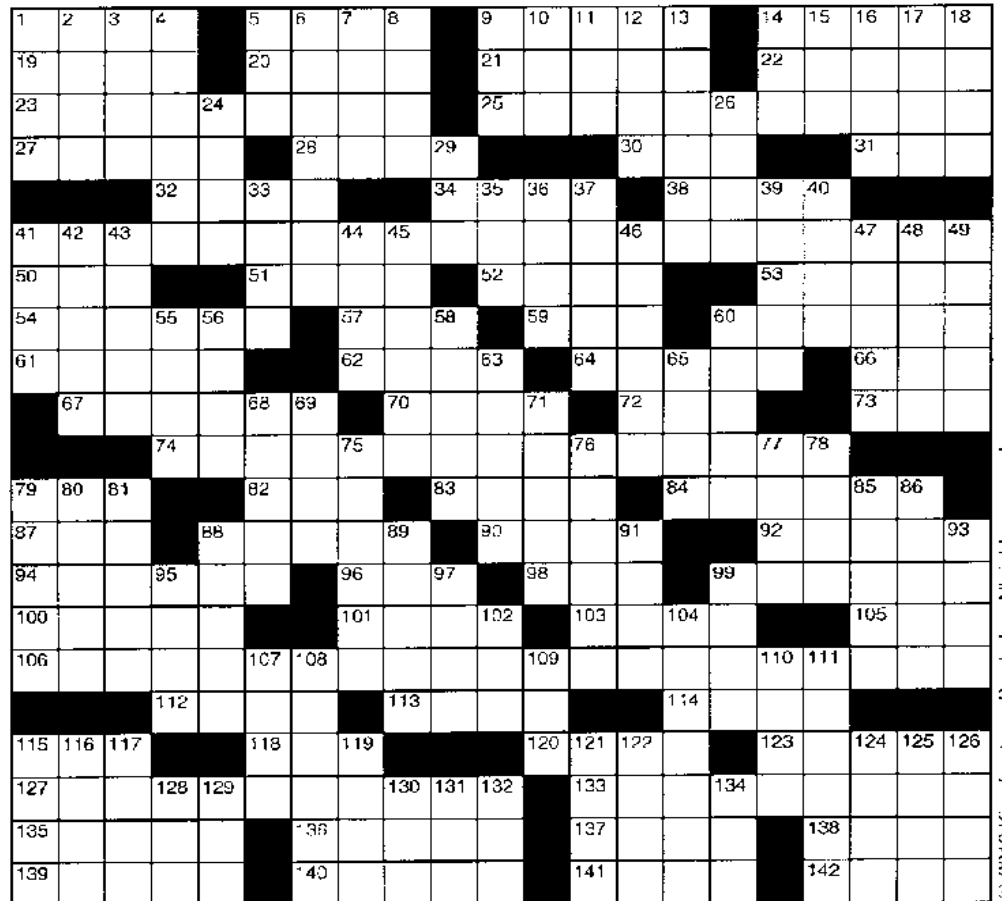
- 62 Coolidge or Gam
- 64 Conspires
- 66 Where the buoys are
- 67 Dachshund or dach-cik
- 70 Pop
- 72 Antipollution grp.
- 73 Porker's palace
- 74 With "The," John Irving book
- 79 Russian jet
- 82 Dogpatch's Da sy
- 83 Ballet movement
- 84 "Dreaming of You" singer
- 87 Private pension
- 88 Insect stage
- 90 Canvas cover
- 92 Layette
- 94 Patriotic Hale
- 96 Kind
- 98 Zilch
- 99 Sardou drama
- 100 Be nosy
- 101 Actress
- 103 Purviance
- 105 Liko Austin
- 106 Powers
- 108 Jimmie Rodgers "it

- 112 — machine
- 113 Stagger
- 114 Loretta Young's birthplace
- 115 Lawyers' org.
- 118 — pro nobis
- 120 Certain Slav
- 123 Restaurateur
- 127 "Angel of the Morning" singer
- 133 "No. No, Nanette" song
- 135 Actress Eve
- 136 Basketball venue
- 137 Valuable
- 138 Chile's or Nettleton
- 139 Baggage checkers?
- 140 Sociable
- 141 German river
- 142 — lily

- composer
- 7 Role for Rigg
- 8 — terrier
- 9 Wine word
- 10 Dam org.
- 11 Acorn, eventually
- 12 Poem's of praise
- 13 Spanish explorer
- 14 Road to enlightenment
- 15 Antiquity, archaically
- 16 Novelist O'Flaherty
- 17 Tropical spot
- 18 Will of "The Waltons"
- 24 Catty remark?
- 26 Baldwin of "Outside Providence"
- 29 Lout
- 33 It's good in a pinch
- 35 Morticia, to Pugsley
- 36 Rainbow goddess
- 37 Remnant
- 39 White House pet
- 40 — gin fizz
- 41 Glasgow girl
- 42 Actress Massey
- 43 Designer Donna
- 44 Islamic ruler
- 45 Salad veggie

- 46 Shout
- 47 Off the mark
- 48 Belief
- 49 Lamp product
- 55 95 Down's real name
- 56 Big rig
- 58 Bend
- 60 No longer fresh
- 63 Man or stallion
- 65 Artistic output
- 68 Big pitcher?
- 69 Tragic monarch
- 71 Lactian native
- 75 Study for exams
- 76 More macabre
- 77 Or — (threat words)
- 78 "You — Me" ("57 hit)
- 79 Capital of Belarus
- 80 Persian, presently
- 81 Los —, CA
- 85 Ruth's mother-in-law
- 86 Chef's shield?
- 88 Stickpin locale
- 89 Cabinet wood
- 91 Realty map

- 93 Mean
- 95 "Bonanza" brother
- 97 Patella's place
- 99 Inspired
- 102 Dug in
- 104 Pie filling
- 107 Any time now
- 108 Flow
- 109 High rails
- 110 West, alliance
- 111 Spirals
- 115 Trojan War hero
- 116 Raymond of "Godzilla" (Verdi aria)
- 117 "Celeste —"
- 119 Crooked
- 121 Reason d'
- 122 Authentic
- 124 Nebraska native
- 125 Baby branch
- 126 Mediocre
- 128 Dodger Ron
- 129 Minnesota twins?
- 130 Hamilton bill
- 131 Out — limb
- 132 Slangy negative
- 134 Service charge



© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.



1. ARCHITECTURE: What did ancient Roman aqueducts carry?
2. COMPUTERS: What does DPI measure?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where does the Albemarle Sound lie?
4. MOVIES: Which well-known film director had planned as a
5. GOVERNMENT: When was the Federal Communications Commission established?
6. LITERATURE: In poetry, what is an enjambment?

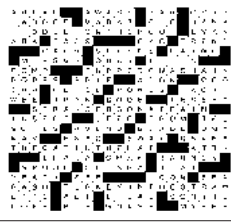
7. MUSIC: Which jazz musician and composer recorded "Giant Steps" in 1960?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is another common name for corn?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is considered the founder

- of the birth-control movement in the United States?
10. SCIENCE: What is the disease beriberi caused by?

© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

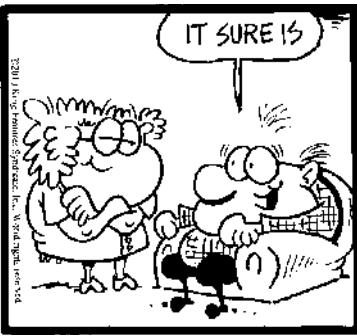
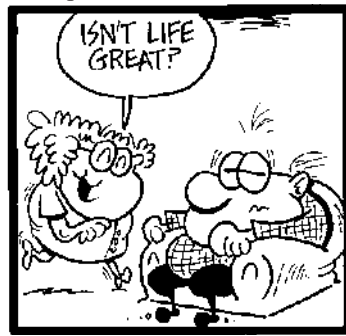
10. Thiamine deficiency
9. Margaret Sanger
8. Maize
7. John Coltrane
6. One line of poetry runs into another without any end punctuation
5. 1934
4. Martin Scorsese
3. Between North Carolina and the
2. Dots Per Inch, which measures resolution in printing
1. Water

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



CONTEMPT

Find today's solution in this section

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Diesel Generator Mechanic

Self starter, Able to work independently,
Proven work experience and quality work in power generation,
Power-house repairs and maintenance.
specifically:
CAT, DETROIT, CUMMINS, ONAN Generator Engines

Bring picture and resumé no later than Monday, December 20th
To:



FLEET MARINE, LLC
Fleet Marine Commercial Center
Middle Road, Tanapag
No phone calls

share the power
of a wishSM

Saipan Tribune



"I want to meet
Winnie the Pooh!"

MAKE-A-WISH[®]

Visit us at 885 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293 • Email: mawf@guam2ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

AUTOMOTIVE

2007 Toyota Corolla, mileage
43,000. Excellent condition.
Price \$8,900.00. Call 287-7676

2007 Nissan Sentra, mileage
42,000. Excellent condition.
Price \$8,800.00. Call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution:
Beneath contempt



Angamwas rules 4-person

Tribune

First Daily Newspaper

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE

DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's s

several Cabi agencies for On a new Senate app

10 DAYS to go before Christmas

OPINION METER

This week's poll: Should NMC revise its policy of allowing the termination of NMC without cause?

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

www.saipantribune.com

VJax catches 3 TD passes from Rivers to lead Bolts



SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers have regained their December swagger, thanks to Vincent Jackson's return and a smash-mouth defense.

Jackson caught a career-high three touchdown passes, Philip Rivers surpassed 4,000 yards passing for the third straight season and the Chargers beat Alex Smith and the San Francisco 49ers 34-7 on Thursday night to stay alive in the AFC West race.

Jackson reminded the Chargers just what they missed when he sat out 10 games during a nasty contract dispute.

"Since I've been here, it's like I had never left," said Jackson, who had his first three TD grabs of the season, of 58, 11 and 21 yards.

"He seems to be in midseason form," Rivers said. "I feel like he's been here for 15 weeks. That's a credit to the way he practices."

The Chargers (8-6) pulled within a half-game of AFC West leader Kansas City (8-5), which lost 31-0 at San Diego on Sunday.

San Francisco was probably the toughest test left for the Chargers, who finish with games at Cincinnati (2-11) and Denver (3-10). If San Diego wins out and the Chiefs lose once, the Chargers will win their fifth straight division title.

The Chargers came within 4:26 of having consecutive shutouts for the first time in their 51-year history.

The 49ers (5-9) could wind up 7-9 and in a three-way tie and still win the NFC West, the NFL's weakest division.

Rivers and Jackson came out early in the fourth quarter and the Chargers leading 31-0.

Rivers was 19 of 25 for 273 yards, giving him 4,141 for the season. He tied Hall of Famer

Dan Fouts' team record set from 1979-81. Jackson had five catches for 112 yards.

"He and Phil have such a good rapport," center Nick Hardwick said. "They both know what's going on, and they've studied for hours together. We were expecting him to come in and explode, and that's what he's done. He's a beast. He does things other players can't do, and he did it tonight."

Unhappy that the Chargers didn't give him a long-term deal, Jackson sat out the first seven games. He then missed three more games while serving a team-imposed suspension. The move cost him some \$3 million in salary.

When he returned at Indianapolis on Nov. 28, he pulled a calf muscle two plays in and was done for the night and the next game.

On the fourth play from scrimmage, Rivers wound up and threw deep. The 6-foot-5 Jackson slowed down and reached out over 6-foot Nate Clements' head to make the catch at about the 15 before outracing the cornerback into the end zone.

Jackson exploited a mismatch against linebacker Takeo Spikes for an easy 11-yard catch just before halftime.

Jackson pulled in a 21-yarder early in the fourth quarter, getting the ball just past the pylon. The play was upheld after a review.

Mike Tolbert had a 1-yard TD run in the third quarter and Nate Kaeding kicked field goals of 25 and 39 yards.

Smith fell far short of having the happy homecoming he was hoping for. Coming off a promising return following a five-game absence, he was 19 of 29 for 165 yards with one interception and was sacked six times.



San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson, left, makes a catch on his way to a touchdown as San Francisco 49ers cornerback Nate Clements defends in the first quarter during an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, in San Diego.

AP

"We wanted it bad," linebacker Brandon Siler said of the shut-out that just eluded the Bolts. "We were saying on the sideline, 'Don't give up anything cheap.' It hurts a little bit, but I think we already know we're a good defense. We proved that."

San Francisco's only score came on Brian Westbrook's 3-yard run with 4:26 left.

The 49ers watched as both a field goal and a touchdown came off the scoreboard in a span of four plays early in the second quarter.

Jeff Reed kicked a 38-yard field goal but San Diego's Antonio Garay was whistled for unnecessary roughness for trying to gain leverage, giving the 49ers first-and-goal at the 10. Smith scrambled and dove at the left pylon on third down and it was ruled a touchdown. The Chargers challenged and it was reversed, with Smith ruled down inches from the goal line. On fourth down at the 1, Siler threw Anthony Dixon for a 2-yard loss.

"I just read the play and got in there," Siler said. "I think it takes the energy and the momentum out of a team when you do something like that."

Said Smith: "It continued to get one-dimensional for us. When you play a defense of that caliber, they're the No. 1 defense for a reason. They played well."

Smith was playing against his hometown Chargers for the first time in the regular season.

Michael Crabtree had just three catches for 17 yards and Pro Bowl tight end Vernon Davis didn't have a catch until the waning minutes, finishing with one for 4 yards.

"This team has highs and lows, but if we are fortunate enough to go to the playoffs, I think we deserve to go," 49ers coach Mike Singletary said.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

(AP)—Brett Favre sounds like a quarterback who's thrown his last pass, at peace with the way his storied career could end on a blindside hit that slammed him to the turf and ended his all-time record durability streak.

With the Vikings quarterback situation completely up in the air Thursday, Favre said he still feels discomfort in his sprained shoulder and numbness in his hand - 11 days after the injury that kept him out of Minnesota's last game against the New York Giants. He said "there's no way" he would consider playing Monday night against the Chicago Bears with the same symptoms.

"I think it would be foolish to even think that way," Favre said.

So if he feels better, will he start throwing again and see if he can heal in time to play in one of the last two games?

Favre sounds skeptical on return; Vikes add Ramsey

"If it's February, I probably won't," Favre deadpanned. "I suppose. We are obviously running out of time."

The Vikings (5-8) have been eliminated from playoff contention with three games left. Favre said he has talked with interim head coach Leslie Frazier about taking advantage of the time to develop rookie Joe Webb, now that backup Tarvaris Jackson (turf toe) is done for the season.

Favre said he'll stay with the team until the season is over, even if he doesn't play anymore.

"Can't say I look forward to traveling any. Getting back at 3 in the morning for a home game the other day, I felt like I had played," Favre said. "Yeah, I plan on being here."

As for whether he'd like to play once more before he retires, Favre said he considers the entire season—his 20th in the NFL—the last hurrah.

"I knew going in, as with any season, there are no guarantees, and things may not go as you would have hoped," Favre said, adding: "I know up to this point, I came in and did everything I could do. Don't regret it one bit. If it's meant to be over, then so be it."

As for the NFL investigation into alleged advances he made toward a New York Jets gameday hostess two years ago, Favre said he hasn't "heard a word" and again said the process hasn't weighed on him. Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday he expected to make a decision before the end of the season.

Jackson was placed on injured reserve Thursday, and the Vikings signed veteran Patrick Ramsey to take his place. Frazier said he wasn't ready to name a starter for the Bears game, but he said Webb would

work with the first-team offense in practice.

Jackson suffered a turf toe injury in the Giants game, and Frazier said there was also ligament damage. Webb hurt his hamstring in the Bills game, but Frazier said he believes Webb is past that.

Either way, the Vikings—just like their stadium situation—are extremely unsettled at the sport's most important position.

Webb said his comfort level with the offense "is very high" but the learning curve is always steep given the complexities of playing quarterback in the NFL. He's naturally excited, though, giving frustrated fans at least one intriguing angle to follow in this game.

"Monday Night Football, you can't get no better than that," said Webb, a sixth-round draft pick from Alabama-Birmingham. "You've been dreaming

that ever since you've been a little kid."

Ramsey, a nine-year veteran, was once a starter for the Washington Redskins. He was let go by the Miami Dolphins last month and hasn't started a game since 2005.

Ramsey participated Thursday in his first practice with the Vikings after getting a call at his home in Louisiana. This is his fifth team in the last two years and eighth overall.

"It was certainly out of the blue for sure. My wife was wondering what we were doing for Christmas," Ramsey said. "There's a lot. Right now, I've got to worry about the Bears, and we'll figure that out."

Frazier prepared Ramsey for the possibility he could see playing time in unfamiliar surroundings—"this is the first team where I don't really know anyone," Ramsey

said—in an offense he's learning on the fly just five days after arriving.

"I said, 'You've got to put your mind around this,'" Frazier said, adding: "For some reason if Joe goes down the first play, here we go Patrick: You're the guy."

Favre said he actually began feeling the numbness in the Nov. 28 game against the Washington Redskins after a hit that knocked his helmet off. Then, when he was taken down the following week by Buffalo Bills rookie Arthur Moats on his first pass of the game, Favre fell on his shoulder, doing further damage and stopping his streak at 297 straight games started.

Favre was held out of practice again Thursday and was looking toward getting Webb comfortable.

"Let him get those reps, and in the meantime see how I feel," Favre said.

Yao career in jeopardy as injury returns



HOUSTON (AP)—Yao Ming's NBA career is in serious jeopardy after the Houston Rockets confirmed Thursday that the giant Chinese center has a stress fracture in his left ankle and will be out indefinitely.

The 2.25-meter (7-foot-6) Yao has been out since Nov. 10 with what had been called a bone bruise in the same ankle. An MRI performed Thursday revealed the stress fracture.

Yao, a seven-time All-Star, sat out last season after surgery to repair his broken left foot. The Rockets said his current injury is related to the old one, and was discovered during his current rehabilitation.

"I have been working hard to get back on the court, so today's news was very disappointing for me," Yao said in a statement. "I will need some time to speak with my doctors to figure out my options moving forward, but I want to thank all those who have expressed their support for me during this time. I will wait on commenting further until we have a set plan."

Yao was the top overall draft pick in 2002 and first began to have injury problems in the 2005-06 season.

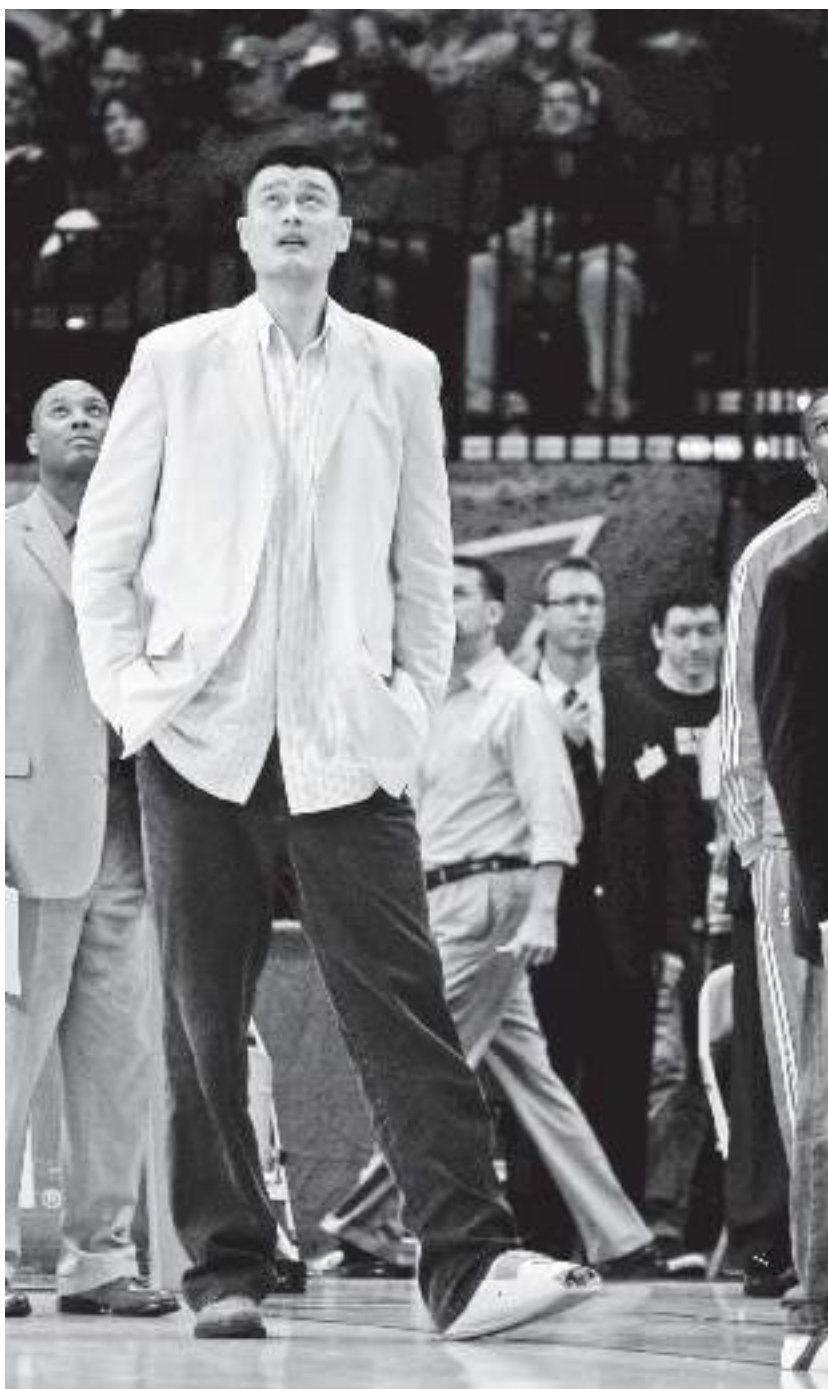
His left foot has been the main problem. He first broke a bone in the foot with four games left in the 2005-06 season.

He broke his right leg in the 2006-07 season, forcing him to sit out 32 games, before a stress fracture in his left foot in February 2008 forced him to miss the playoffs. He had pins inserted and rushed his rehabilitation to play for China in the Beijing Olympics.

Yao played 77 regular-season games in 2008-09 and had no problems with his foot until the second round of the playoffs, when he injured it again. That injury proved to be the most serious, when the hairline fracture didn't heal and he was forced to undergo complex surgery.

When he returned this season after sitting out for more than a year, the Rockets closely monitored his playing time and limited his work to no more than 24 minutes a game.

But in the fifth game, Yao was injured again. The initial diagnosis was a mild ankle sprain that would keep him out about a week. Nine days after the injury, the team called it an ankle bone



Houston Rocket Yao Ming, of China, looks on from the sidelines in the first quarter during a NBA basketball game on Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, in Houston.

bruise and said Yao was expected to sit out two more weeks.

At the time, team doctor Tom Clanton said in a statement that Yao's left foot is "completely healed and the structural integrity of the foot is intact."

Yao has been a game-changing player and one of the NBA's most valuable and recognized ambassadors.

Thanks in large part to Yao's impact, the NBA launched NBA China in January 2008. A year ago, NBA

games and programming were available on 51 television and digital media outlets in China and NBA merchandise was being sold in about 30,000 retail locations there.

The Rockets went 42-40 and missed the playoffs with Yao on the sidelines last season and are just 10-15 so far this year, at the bottom of the Southwest Division. He is due to make \$17.7 million this season after signing a five-year extension in September 2005.

Garnett stars in Celtics' 12th straight win

BOSTON (AP)—Kevin Garnett had 17 points and 14 rebounds - one of three Boston players with a double-double—to lead the Celtics to their 12th straight win, 102-90 over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night.

Paul Pierce had 15 points and 10 assists and Glen "Big Baby" Davis had 18 points and 10 rebounds. Ray Allen scored 18 points and Nate Robinson had 14 for the Celtics (21-4).

Marvin Williams had a season-best 26 points and Jeff Teague scored 18 for the Hawks.

Boston point guard Rajon Rondo missed the game after spraining his left ankle in Wednesday's win at New York. He's expected to be sidelined at least a week. Center Shaquille O'Neal was also out, missing his fourth straight game with a sore right calf.

Boston led by six points entering the final quarter, but the Hawks closed within 77-75 on Teague's one-handed runner in the lane.

The Celtics then scored seven straight points, with Davis and Semih Erden sandwiching baskets around a 3-pointer by Pierce, making it 84-77 with just under eight minutes to play.

Atlanta sliced it to 84-78 on Damien Wilkins' free throw, but Pierce hit two free throws and Robinson nailed a 3, helping Boston pull safely in front. Allen's 3-pointer made it 100-86 with 1:53 left.

The Celtics—behind Allen's 10 points—took a 73-63 lead late in the third quarter. Coming off screens and getting wide-open looks, Allen hit his first three shots of the quarter. But the Hawks stayed close because of some good outside shooting of their own, hitting 65 percent from the field (11 of 17).

Boston led 75-69 entering the final quarter.

Nets 97, Wizards 89

In Newark, New Jersey, the hosts snapped an eight-game losing slump by beating Washington.

Devin Harris had 29 points and nine assists and Brook Lopez added 18 points for the Nets, who led by 23 points in the second quarter.

The loss was the 13th straight on the road this season for the Wizards, who played without top overall draft pick John Wall and forward Andray Blatche, both of whom have knee problems.

Reserve Nick Young led the Wizards with 22 points.

Spurs 113, Nuggets 112

In Denver, Manu Ginobili sparked the Spurs to a big fourth-quarter lead and he drew the foul that negated Carmelo Anthony's winning basket in San Antonio's escape from the Nuggets.

The Spurs led 111-108 with 8 seconds left when Anthony got behind the defense for a dunk. Antonio McDyess' inbound pass was deflected by J.R. Smith off Ginobili's head and into the arms of Anthony, whose basket gave the Nuggets a 112-111 lead with 7.1 seconds left.

Ginobili's running bank shot at 4.2 seconds put the Spurs back on top 113-112.

After a timeout, Anthony got the inbound pass from Ty Lawson and drove the lane. He ran over Ginobili as he made a buzzer-beater that was called off for an offensive foul.

After a review, the officials put .4 seconds back on the clock, and the Spurs inbounded the ball for the win.

Back in June, Yao's return for 2010-11 was a giant selling point for general manager Daryl Morey as he began courting big-name free agents.

"To miss one year is a long time," Yao said then. "I've never been in this situation before, and I'm getting as much information as I can about my foot, to see what's the best for me and best for the Rockets."

Yao has averaged 19.1 points and 9.3 rebounds in seven seasons. He turned

30 on Sept. 12. Yao missed at least 25 games with injuries in three straight seasons between 2005-08.

In September, both Yao and coach Rick Adelman were unsure how the injured food would hold up.

"Yao is the big unknown," Adelman said then. "I don't think it's fair to say he's going to play 24 minutes. It's got to be something that he feels comfortable with, and it's going to benefit our team, in the long run."

Jenks joins Red Sox, Ordonez stays with Tigers

By **BEN WALKER**
AP BASEBALL WRITER



Bobby Jenks, Kerry Wood and Josh Willingham changed uniforms while Magglio Ordonez stayed in Detroit as several teams tried to wrap up business Thursday before taking a holiday break.

A December flurry of activity saw Minnesota reach a deal with Japanese batting champion Tsuyoshi Nishioka and the Los Angeles Dodgers get reliever Matt Guerrier.

Also in the works: Looking for a lefty in the bullpen, the New York Yankees are trying to close a deal for free agent Pedro Feliciano.

The Boston Red Sox stayed busy,

reaching agreement with Jenks on a \$12 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

The right-handed Jenks posted 27 saves for the White Sox last season, but lost the closer's role at the end of the year when he struggled with injuries.

The Red Sox agreed to a one-year contract with right-handed reliever Matt Albers, who made 62 appearances for Baltimore, and sent utilityman Eric Patterson to San Diego to complete the trade for first baseman Adrian Gonzalez.

Wood is going back to the Cubs on a one-year deal with a base guarantee of \$1.5 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP.

The 33-year-old Wood was the NL Rookie of the Year with the Cubs in 1998 and nearly helped pitch them into the 2003 World Series. Wood, whose career has been slowed by injuries, split last season with Cleveland and the Yankees. He's expected to be a late-inning reliever in Chicago.

The Oakland Athletics acquired Willingham from the Washington Nationals for a pair of prospects, right-handed reliever Henry Rodriguez and outfielder Corey Brown.



Jenks

hit .303 with 12 homers and 59 RBIs in 84 games last season.

Nishioka and the Twins reached a preliminary agreement on a three-year contract worth about \$10 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP. He hit .346 last season in Japan.

Nishioka can play shortstop or second base, and the Twins have a need for middle infielders after J.J. Hardy was traded and Orlando Hudson became a free agent.

Minnesota also traded backup catcher Jose Morales to Colorado for minor league left-hander Paul Bargas.

In other moves, the Yankees completed a contract with former All-Star catcher Russell Martin, Cleveland agreed to terms with infielder Adam Everett on a minor league deal and Toronto brought back designated hitter-first baseman Edwin Encarnacion.

FSM Football Association wins Australian sports grant

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	21	4	.840	—
New York	16	10	.615	5 1/2
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	11
Toronto	9	17	.346	12 1/2
New Jersey	7	19	.269	14 1/2

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	19	8	.704	—
Orlando	16	9	.640	2
Atlanta	16	11	.593	3
Charlotte	9	16	.360	9
Washington	6	18	.250	11 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	16	8	.667	—
Indiana	11	13	.458	5
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	6
Detroit	8	18	.308	9
Cleveland	7	18	.280	9 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	3	.880	—
Dallas	20	5	.800	2
New Orleans	15	10	.600	7
Memphis	12	14	.462	10 1/2
Houston	10	15	.400	12

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	18	8	.692	—
Utah	18	8	.692	—
Denver	15	10	.600	2 1/2
Portland	12	14	.462	6
Minnesota	6	20	.231	12

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	19	7	.731	—
Phoenix	12	12	.500	6
Golden State	9	16	.360	9 1/2
Sacramento	5	18	.217	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	5	21	.192	14

Yesterday's Games				
New Jersey	97,	Washington	89	
Boston	102,	Atlanta	90	
San Antonio	113,	Denver	112	

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	11	2	0	.846	415	276
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.692	273	242
Miami	7	6	0	.538	225	244
Buffalo	3	10	0	.231	256	339

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	295	331
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	318
Houston	5	8	0	.385	316	355
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	265

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	290	198
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	294	229
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	235	252
Cincinnati	2	11	0	.154	262	345

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	295	268
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	314	307
Denver	3	10	0	.231	269	376

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	374	308
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	.692	329	250
Washington	5	8	0	.385	238	310
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	321	366

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	335	243
New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	330	240
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	260	267
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	164	338

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615	306	189
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	230	274
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	285	309

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	245	268
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	261	329
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	243	351

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Game				
San Diego	34,	San Francisco	7	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of the Pohnpei Soccer League pose as Steve Finnen accepts the ASOP grant award from Sam Upritchard, second secretary of the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei.



The Australian Sports Outreach Program has awarded the FSM Football Association a grant of AUD\$10,000 to undertake a project called “FSM Grassroot Soccer Development Programme” with the latest round of ASOP funding.

This grassroots project will set up youth and adult soccer leagues in each of the four FSM states by July 2011. The project has a plan to teach the sport of soccer at some of the elementary schools in each state so that youth leagues can be started. The association’s goal is to have at least four UEFA Level 1 qualified coaches present in each state by September 2010 and to have four state teams ready to compete in the next FSM Games, which will be held in Pohnpei in the summer of 2011.

Another objective of the project, as stated in the grant report, is to increase the awareness of the need for health and physical education in the FSM.

In discussing the grant award, Steve Finnen, president of the FSM Soccer Association, said that, “Soccer is a great sport for the FSM. The sport itself does not require huge size or specialized equipment. The speed and agility of our athletes makes this sport a natural for this country and we are hoping to build up the sport here in the FSM, so that ultimately our athletes can play on the world stage.” (PR)

Vegas judge orders Floyd Mayweather’s arrest

CRISTINA SILVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas judge has issued an outstanding arrest warrant for boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. on a misdemeanor battery complaint alleging he poked a security guard in the face several times.

The warrant issued Dec. 8 requires Mayweather to turn himself in or face arrest at any time, said Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassel.

Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Tony Abbatangelo signed the arrest warrant for Mayweather after a Dec. 8 hearing, then immediately recalled it. It was reinstated after prosecutors complained

Mayweather had received special treatment. Prosecutors also argued that Mayweather has a history of dangerous behavior and should be arrested.

A court hearing to review the warrant was scheduled for Tuesday.

Mayweather, 33, faces a six-month jail sentence and a \$1,000 fine if convicted.

Mayweather’s lawyer, Karen Winckler, could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday. She has denied wrongdoing on his behalf.

The battery allegation stems from a Nov. 15 confrontation over parking tickets between the undefeated champion and a security guard outside Mayweather’s home.



Police allege a “verbally abusive” Mayweather blocked the guard, Shayne Smith, from leaving a cul-de-sac, screamed he had no business “touching his personal property” and repeatedly jabbed his finger into Smith’s cheek.

Police said photographs taken during the investigation show redness and discoloration below Smith’s left eye.

Mayweather has been the focus of several other police investigations in recent months, and made headlines in September with an online video laced with expletives and racial rants against Philippine boxing rival Manny Pacquiao.

He was convicted in 2002 of misdemeanor battery stemming from a fight with two women at a Las Vegas nightclub. He received a suspended one-year jail sentence and was ordered to undergo impulse-control counseling.

He was fined in Grand Rapids, Mich., in February 2005 and ordered to perform community service after pleading no contest to misdemeanor assault and battery in a bar fight.

Mayweather is free on \$33,000 bail on unrelated felony coercion, grand larceny and robbery charges from a September dispute with his children and their mother. He could face up to 34 years in prison if convicted in that case.

KEANNA

From Page 28

last Thursday. She was on Heat 3 and submitted 1:06.72, passing her qualifying time of 1:07.65.

The Saipan Swim Club swimmer finished fourth in her heat and her time was faster than 16 other swimmers, including fellow Micronesian betes from Palau, Cook Islands, and the Marshall Islands.

Villagomez also competed in the 100m freestyle and posted 1:11.81 on Heat 1. She recorded no qualifying time in this event, which had the United States’ Natalie Coughlin logging the best qualifying heat time at 52.27 seconds. The Netherlands’ Ranomi Kromowidjojo was second at 52.39 seconds, while Coughlin’s teammate—Dana Vollmer—was third at 52.58 seconds.

RASTGUIY

From Page 28

fish in fourth-seeded Tiana Windbuchler, as Rastguiy nailed a 6-3, 6-3 win.

Then in the quarterfinals, Rastguiy had her first meeting against Ponnampalam and the CNMI bet extended her winning run with a 6-1, 6-2 triumph.

In the semis, Rastguiy had another seeded opponent in second-ranked Janvhi Clark and the Commonwealth netter continued her giant killing ways in Hamilton with a hard-earned

5-7, 6-4, 6-0 win.

Rastguiy’s last match was against No. 3 seed Nina Paripovich, which halted the CNMI netter’s run with a 6-2, 6-1 win in the championship game.

Once the tournament in Gisborne is over, Negahr will return to Auckland where she

the fastest qualifying heat time in the 100m IM, finishing the event in 59.14 seconds. Incidentally, Kukor’s time in the qualifying heat broke the champion record (59.30 seconds) of teammate Jenny Thompson made in Hong Kong in April, 1, 1999.

In the 50m butterfly, Kimball was on Heat 2 and clocked in at 36.04 seconds, failing to surpass her qualifying time of 34.79 seconds.

will compete in her last tournament—the 2010 Auckland Christmas Tournament—at the Scarbro Tennis Centre in 69 Merton Road, Auckland and the Manukau Tennis Centre in Manukau City.

Rastguiy will then return to Saipan on Dec. 23.

MATAGOLAI

From Page 28

Tip-Off.

The tourney will exhibit a double-round robin format with double-elimination playoffs. The championship game is set for Dec. 30, where the division’s most valuable player as well as offensive and defensive awards will be presented.

The youth camp, meanwhile, starts on Monday, Dec. 20, and will run through Friday, Dec. 31. At the camp, the Rollers duo will be officiating games as well as helping instruct participants during various practice drills.

The youth camp will run in the mornings, and after a lunch break, participants will undergo a second afternoon skills clinic, with the Holiday Tip-Off games taking place at night.

Ulloa invited the two Saipan players after their performances during the recent 2010 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest in Guam left a valued impression on her.

Matagolai, who plays shooting guard and forward, was recognized as one of

the event’s top scorers until the Rollers squad was eliminated.

Litulumar plays center for Rollers and is more known as a defensive specialist. Ulloa invited the players because she believes Matagolai and Litulumar could learn fundamental offensive and defensive aspects of the game from them.

Rollers players have beginner-level officiating experience and look forward to using this opportunity to sharpen their skills for future events.

“I want to thank the Typhoons for the opportunity and also BANMI’s Gabriel

White for teaching me and my fellow Rollers teammates about what it takes to be a referee. I’ve been to Guam a number of times in my basketball career and I always have a good time...I’m really looking forward to competing with the Typhoons as well as helping the kids in the clinic,” said Matagolai during last Thursday’s Rollers practice session.

Litulumar was not at practice Thursday, but Rollers coach Joe Diaz spoke with him when he informed him of the invitation. Diaz affirmed that Litulumar sounded pretty psyched about going to Guam.

HOPWOOD’S

From Page 28

the third inning.

Then Hit & Run’s James Kintaro reached the plate, to trim LMA’s lead to, 2-4, after three innings.

Both teams cooled off in the fourth and fifth innings before LMA busted the game open with a backbreaking six-run jolt in the top of the sixth inning.

Erlihno Olaitiman, Daniel Smith, Mathew Lisua, Kaipat, Faisao, and Marino Ngeskebei all came around to score.

Hit & Run could not provide an answer in the bottom half and the score remained, 10-2, LMA at the start of the seventh and final inning.

Hit & Run kept LMA at bay to start the seventh, but only managed one run by Kintaro in the bottom half.

In addition, a consolation game between Hopwood’s Shorties and Chagi Fan squads also took place prior to the championship match, where Shorties won 4-0.

All four teams that took part in the tourney were from Hopwood.



Yao career in jeopardy as injury returns

Page 26

Saipan Tribune Sports

VJax catches 3 TD passes from Rivers to lead Bolts

Page 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2010

Keanna, Grace drop times in Dubai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI swimmers Keanna Villagomez and Grace Kimball dropped times in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Villagomez was the first one to eclipse her qualifying time as she raced in the 100m backstroke during the opening of the five-day competition at the 25-meter pool of the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Sports Complex last Wednesday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Kimball, seen here in a local meet, is competing in Dubai in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Sports Complex.

The Kagman High School student was on Heat 1 of the 100m backstroke race, joining five other swimmers, and she timed in at one minute, 22.99 seconds. She finished last on her heat, but she crushed her qualifying time of 1:25.47.

China's Jing Zhao won Heat 1 with a time of 58.17 seconds and she also qualified in the semifinals along with 15 other swimmers. The United States' Melissa Franklin posted the fastest qualifying heat time, clocking in at 57.33 seconds on Heat 7. Rounding out the Top 3 qualifiers were Australia's Rachel Goh (57.54 seconds) and China's Chang Gao (57.56 seconds).

Villagomez had her second event in the Dubai competition last Thursday, racing in the 50m butterfly. The 17-year-old swimmer was on Heat 2 and recorded 39.14 seconds, eclipsing her qualifying time of 40.07 seconds.

Kimball did not compete in the opening day of the tournament and had her first race via the 100m freestyle event

See KEANNA on Page 27

Rastguiy seeded first in New Zealand tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After an impressive debut in New Zealand, CNMI junior tennis player Negahr Rastguiy gained the top ranking in her second tournament—the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open.

The Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open started last Tuesday at the PBEC Association Courts in Childers Road in Gisborne and concluded yesterday with Rastguiy among the seeded players in the girls U12 singles.



Joining Rastguiy in the seeded players list in her age group are fellow Pacific Oceania Touring Team member Ayana Rengil of Palau and New Zealand's Annalakshmi Ponampalam and Olivia McCormack.

The girls U12 field had 19 players and the competition used a 32-player draw with Rastguiy getting a bye in the first round. The complete pairings and results of the matches have yet to be posted on the competition website at press time.

Rastguiy earned the top seeding in the Gisborne tournament after making it to the finals of the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton.

She was unseeded in her first tournament and debuted in the 32-player field with a straight sets victory against Lyla Tapusoa, 7-6, 6-2. In the second round, the CNMI netter caught a big

See RASTGUIY on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastguiy gained the top seeding in the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open at the PBEC Association Courts in Childers Road in Gisborne, New Zealand.

Matagolai, Litulumar suit up for Tamuning Typhoons in Guam tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club mainstays Manny Matagolai and Ferdie Litulumar will be suiting up for Tamuning Typhoons Basketball Club in the Holiday Tip-Off 2010 Tournament's 25U Men's Varsity division set from Dec. 18 to 30.

Matagolai and Litulumar were invited by Tamuning coach Elsa Ulloa and aside from playing for the Typhoons, the two will also help officiate and instruct 6- to 14-year-olds in their yearend ACAS Winter Youth Basketball Camp.

The tournament and basketball camp will both be held at the Tamuning Gymnasium.

Matagolai and Litulumar left for Guam early yesterday morning in order to catch the start of the Holiday

See MATAGOLAI on Page 27



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Manny Matagolai, left, poses with Rollers Basketball Club coach Joe Diaz Thursday night at their practice at the Garapan Basketball Court on the eve of his departure to Guam. He will be joined by teammate Ferdie Litulumar, not pictured.

Hopwood's LMA top U14 softball tournament

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Hopwood Junior High School's LMA defeated Hit & Run, 10-3, in the MISO U14 Boys Softball Championship held Thursday at Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

LMA's A.J. Lizama, Khobby Kaipat, and Jesus Faisao each came into score in the top of the first inning. Hit & Run answered with a run by Yosh Arurang in the bottom half.

Then Lizama touched home again for LMA in the top of the second inning to make it, 4-1, LMA.

Hit & Run went silent in the bottom half, but held LMA scoreless to start

See HOPWOOD'S on Page 27



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Hopwood Junior High School's LMA pose with the MISO U14 Boys Softball Championship trophy after defeating Hit & Run, 10-3, last Thursday at Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.